

1989: Year of the Snake

The Fall of Communism & The Rise of Socialism and New World Order



**At the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
in Moscow on 18 January 1989**

[From left to right] David Rockefeller, Georges Berthoin, Mikhail Gorbachev,
Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Henry Kissinger, Yasuhiro Nakasone, Yoshio Okawara

David Rockefeller, the founder of the Trilateral Commission, and other members of the Trilateral Commission visit Soviet Commissar Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, Soviet Union on **January 18, 1989**.

(Source: http://www.trilateral.org/download/doc/Commemorating_1989.pdf)

The Collapse of East Germany & Berlin Wall



Germans stand atop the Berlin Wall near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, West Germany on **November 9, 1989** shortly after the communist East German government announced unrestricted travel between East and West Berlin.



Soviet Commissar Mikhail Gorbachev and East German Commissar Erich Honecker attend a parade commemorating the 40th year of the establishment of East Germany in East Berlin on October 7, 1989.



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (center) and his wife Raisa Gorbachev are welcomed by East German Commissar Erich Honecker (right) with a fraternal kiss in East Berlin, East Germany after the Gorbachevs arrive to celebrate the 40th anniversary of East Germany on October 6, 1989.



German workers protest against the Communist regime in Leipzig, East Germany on September 4, 1989.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-1990-0922-002
Foto: Gahlbeck, Friedrich | 16. Oktober 1989

German citizens protest against the Communist regime in Leipzig, East Germany on October 16-17, 1989.



Vaclav Havel and Ladislav Adamec shake hands during a conference in Prague, Czechoslovakia in **November 1989**. Pro-democracy demonstrations led by Vaclav Havel during 1989 resulted in the resignation of the ruling Communist Party. The collapse of communism in Czechoslovakia became known as the Velvet Revolution, due to the relative peacefulness of events. (Photo: Miroslav Zajic/CORBIS)



A man in Budapest holds out his hat to express his support as Hungarian interim head of state and parliament president Matyas Szuros proclaims the Republic of Hungary in Budapest, Hungary on **October 23, 1989**. Called the People's Republic of Hungary since 1949, the newly renamed Republic of Hungary holds the promise of multi-party elections and the end of Communist rule. The historic announcement comes on the anniversary of the 1956 uprising against the Soviet Union. (Photo: Bernard Bisson/Sygma/Corbis)



The Romanian people crowd the streets of Bucharest, Romania in December 1989 during a violent coup that resulted in the death of Romania's communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.



Romanian soldiers appear on the streets of Bucharest, Romania in December 1989 following a violent coup that resulted in the death of Romania's communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Tiananmen Square Massacre



President George H.W. Bush celebrates on Tiananmen Square in Beijing, Communist China on **February 25, 1989**, just months prior to the Tiananmen Square Massacre.

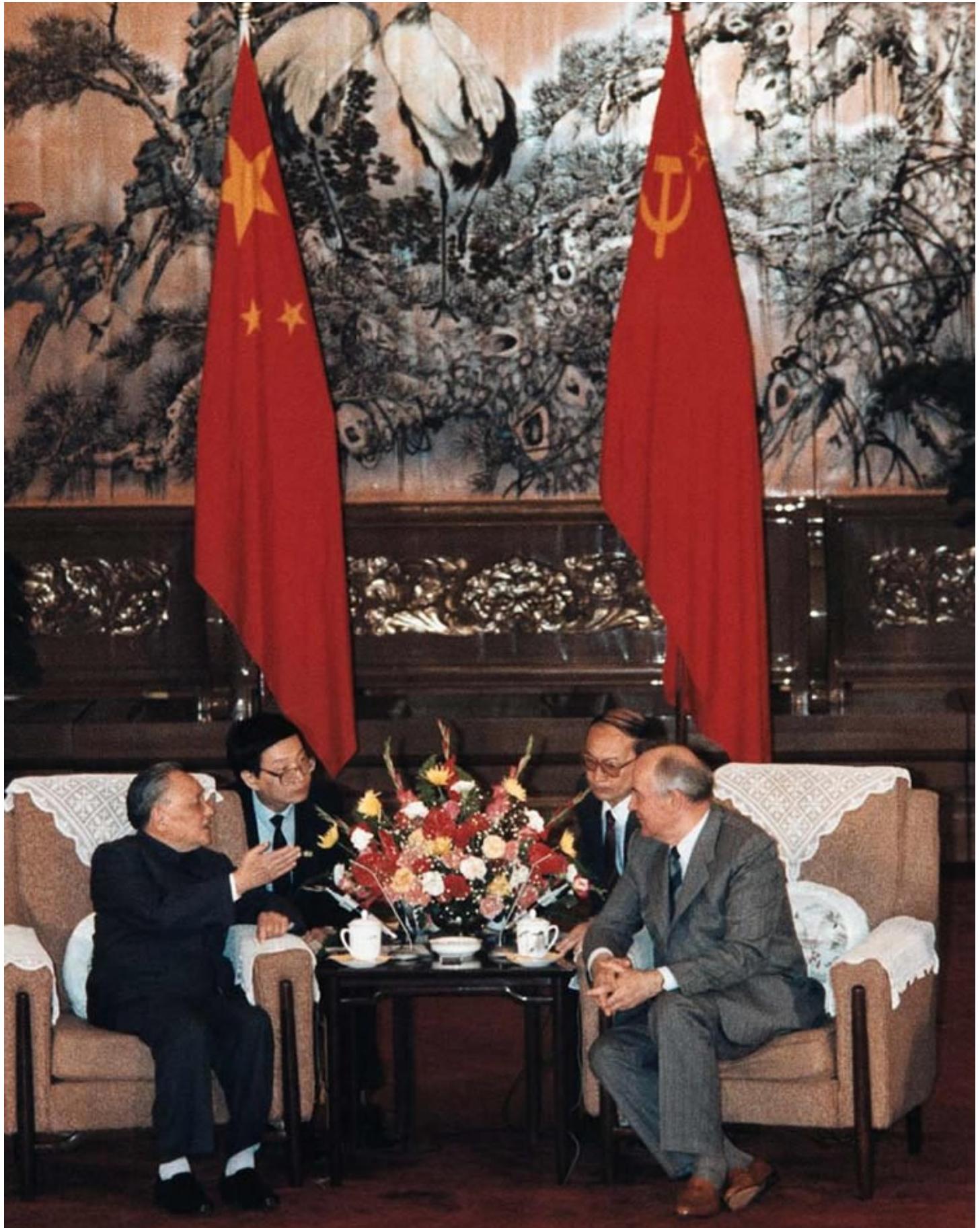


Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing, Communist China on **June 4, 1989**



President George H. W. Bush meets with Chinese Communist leader Deng Xiaoping in Beijing, Communist China on February 26, 1989. President Bush paid a state visit to China from February 24-27, 1989. The Tiananmen Square Massacre occurred in Beijing on June 4, 1989; an estimated 10,000 Chinese people died that day.

(Photo: <https://apps.cndls.georgetown.edu/projects/uschina/items/show/297>)



Communist China's Commissar Deng Xiaoping talks to Soviet Commissar Mikhail Gorbachev at a meeting in Beijing in May 1989. Gorbachev visited Communist China from May 15-18, 1989. Deng Xiaoping ordered the Chinese Communist People's Liberation Army to murder thousands of Chinese people on Tiananmen Square the following month.
(Photo: <http://www.idcpc.org.cn/english/xiaoping/relations/89-11.htm>)

The Inauguration of President George H.W. Bush and a “New World Order”



George Herbert Walker Bush takes the oath of office from U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on January 20, 1989. U.S. Senator George Mitchell (rear, left) and U.S. Senator Bob Dole (rear, center) appear in the background.



Reverend Jesse Jackson (left) and Reverend Jerry Falwell arrive at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. on **January 20, 1989** for the Inauguration of President George H.W. Bush. (Bettmann/CORBIS)



U.S. President George H.W. Bush delivers his inaugural address at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on **January 20, 1989** after being sworn in as President of the United States. Former President Ronald Reagan (right) is seen applauding. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



President George Bush greets British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London on **June 1, 1989**, three days prior to the Tiananmen Square Massacre. (Photo: George Bush Presidential Library and Museum)



President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush arrive in Buckingham Palace in London on **June 1, 1989** where they are met by Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. (George Bush Presidential Library and Museum)



U.S. President George H.W. Bush (right) and Poland's Solidarity leader Lech Walesa (left) stand before a crowd of thousands of people in Gdansk, Poland on **July 11, 1989** in front of the monument dedicated to the workers who died in 1970 strikes in the Lenin Shipyard next to the monument. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



Political leaders at G7 Summit outside Louvre in Paris, France on **July 14, 1989**, also known as Bastille Day in France, at the entrance of the Pyramid of the Louvre. From left to right: Prime Minister of Italy Ciriaco De Mita, President of the Commission of European Communities Jacques Delors, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, U.S. President George H.W. Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister of Great Britain Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Canada Brian Mulroney, and Prime Minister of Japan Sosuke Uno. (Photo: Peter Turnley/CORBIS)



To Kate and Sadri
With the hope that this handshake will lead to a more peaceful
world. Love from all Bushes - Ag/

This was taken at Malta, December 2, 1989. I sent it to my friends
Catherine and Sadruddin Aga Khan. (Bush Library photo.)

President George H.W. Bush shakes hands with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev at Malta on **December 2, 1989**.
This photo appears in George H.W. Bush's own book *All The Best: My Life in Letters and Other Writings*. (Bush Library photo)



Left photo: Solidarity leader and Polish anti-communist dissident Lech Walesa campaigns for president in Poland on **May 7, 1989**. (Reuters/Leszek Wdowinski/Archive Photos)

Right photo: The remains of former Romanian Communist despot Nicolae Ceausescu after he was executed by the Romanian people on **December 25, 1989**. (Christmas Day).

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U.S. President George Bush is greeted by Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita prior to their meeting in Tokyo, Japan on **February 23, 1989** after Bush arrived for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito of Japan. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



Prime Minister of Thailand Chatichai Choonhavan (left) chats with U.S. President George H.W. Bush during a meeting at the American ambassador's residence in Tokyo, Japan on **February 23, 1989**. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



American President George H.W. Bush speaks with Zaire's "anti-Communist" President Mobutu Sese Seko in Tokyo, Japan on **February 24, 1989**. (Photo: Wally McNamee/CORBIS)



India's President Ramaswamy Venkakataraman listens as U.S. President George H.W. Bush speaks during their meeting at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Tokyo, Japan on **February 23, 1989**. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



Pakistani President Benazir Bhutto and U. S. President George H.W. Bush meet in Tokyo, Japan on **February 24, 1989** after both leaders attended the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. (Bettmann/CORBIS)



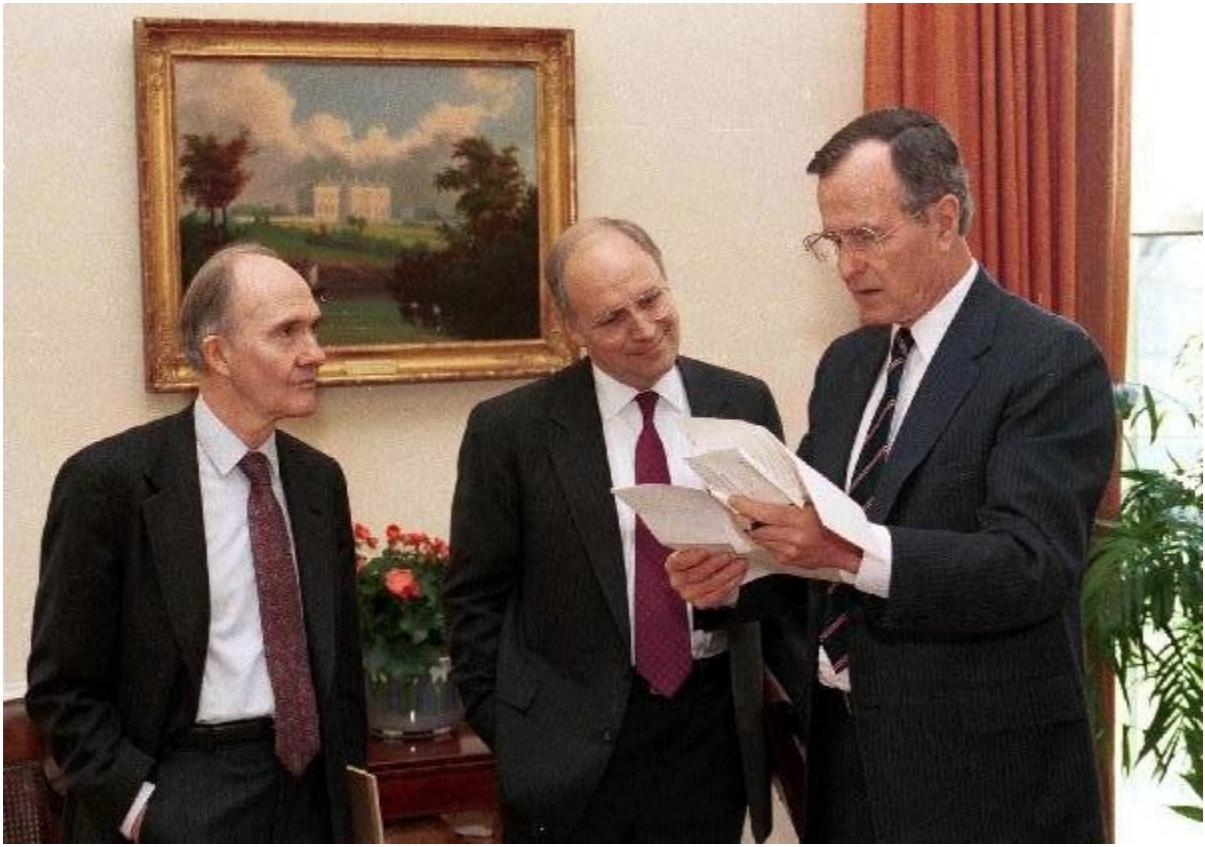
Philippines President Corazon Aquino (left) meets with U. S. President George H.W. Bush on **February 24, 1989** during a reception at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan after both attended the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. The U.S. Air Force was stationed at Clark Air Base, at the time America's largest air force base, in the Philippines in 1989. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



U.S. President George H.W. Bush (second from left) and his wife Barbara Bush share a smile with South Korea's President Roh Tae-Woo and his wife Kim Ok-Sook, during a photo session at the Blue House in Seoul, Republic of Korea on **February 27, 1989**. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



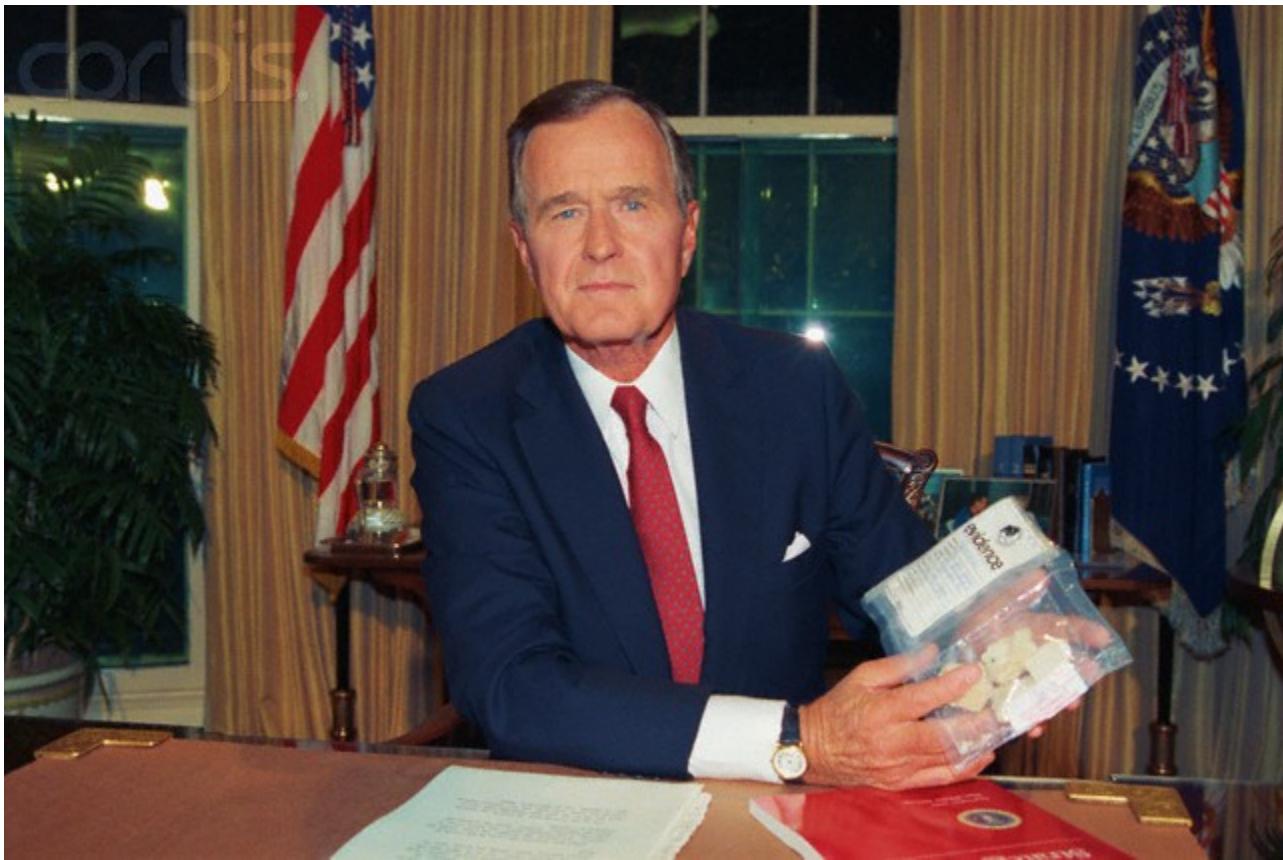
Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak (left), his wife Susan (second from left), U.S. President George H.W. Bush (right), and First Lady Barbara Bush, posing for a picture before a formal dinner at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on **April 4, 1989**. (Jerome Delay/AFP/ Getty Images)



National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft (left) watches Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney (center) and President George Bush (right) read a letter in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on **April 19, 1989**.
(Photo: George Bush Presidential Library)



U.S. President George H.W. Bush appears at a press conference at the White House in Washington, D.C. on **August 10, 1989** to announce the appointment of U.S. Army General Colin L. Powell as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. From left to right: Gen. Colin L. Powell, Vice President Dan Quayle, George H.W. Bush, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, and outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral William Crowe. (© Ron Sachs/CNP/Sygma/Corbis)



U.S. President George H.W. Bush displays a bag of crack cocaine at his desk in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, D.C. on **September 5, 1989**. The crack cocaine was seized by Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agents in Lafayette Park across from the White House few days earlier in 1989. Bush addressed the nation on September 5, 1989 detailing his new \$7.9 billion anti-drug program. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



President George H.W. Bush (center) outlines his anti-drug program to U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker (left) and U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney (right) at a cabinet meeting in the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on **September 5, 1989**. At rear is drug czar William Bennett. (Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)

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Political leaders at G7 Summit outside Louvre in Paris, France on **July 14, 1989**, also known as Bastille Day in France, at the entrance of the Pyramid of the Louvre. From left to right: Prime Minister of Italy Ciriaco De Mita, President of the Commission of European Communities Jacques Delors, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, U.S. President George H.W. Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister of Great Britain Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Canada Brian Mulroney, and Prime Minister of Japan Sosuke Uno. (Photo: Peter Turnley/CORBIS)



United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar (seated, left) looks on as American President George H.W. Bush proposes an agreement stipulating that the U.S. and the Soviet Union cut their chemical weapons stocks to an equal level, at about 80 percent below current American stocks, during a speech at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on **September 25, 1989**. (Photo: Rick Maiman/Sygma/Corbis)



Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton (left) Iowa Governor Terry Branstad (center), and U.S. President George H.W. Bush (right) laugh as they meet in Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S.A. on **September 27, 1989** to begin the education summit.
(Photo: Bettmann/CORBIS)



Speaker of the House Thomas S. Foley (far left) watches Secretary of State James A. Baker III (second from left) shake hands with President George H.W. Bush on **April 8, 1989** after signing the Central American Bipartisan Accord. Thomas S. Foley was a member of the Trilateral Commission in 1989.



Prime Minister of Great Britain Margaret Thatcher (left) appears with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (center) and his wife Raisa Gorbachev at the Soviet Embassy in London on April 1, 1989.

A “New World Order” in the Middle East



From left to right: President of North Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of Iraq Saddam Hussein, King Hussein of Jordan and President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak wave to the crowd during a motorcade rally prior to the opening of the Arab Cooperation Council in Alexandria, Egypt on June 15, 1989. (MIKE NELSON/AFP/Getty Images)



From right to left: Grand Sheik of Al-Azhar, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordanian King Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh attend the Friday Islamic noon prayer, during the Arab Cooperation Council in Alexandria, Egypt on June 16, 1989. (MIKE NELSON/AFP/Getty Images)

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Finance Minister of Israel Shimon Peres (left) meets with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn, Germany on **January 18, 1989** during his official visit to West Germany. (Photo: Régis Bossu/Sygma/Corbis)



U.S. President George H.W. Bush (left) and Saudi Prince Bandar (second from left, red headdress) taste some Saudi Arabian treats while visiting a Saudi Arabian exhibition in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on **August 9, 1989**. Prince Bandar was Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States from 1983 to 2005. (Photo: Bettmann/Corbis)

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Arab terrorist Yasser Arafat (left) and President of Syria Hafez Assad sit together on a couch for a talk during the Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco on **May 25, 1989**. (Photo: Maher Attar/Sygma/Corbis)



Arab terrorist Yasser Arafat welcomes Iraq's President Saddam Hussein to his Casablanca villa during the Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco on **May 25, 1989**. (© Maher Attar/Sygma/Corbis)



Arab terrorist Yasser Arafat (left) sits on the pool side in the garden of his Casablanca villa with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak while two bodyguards keep an eye on them in the background during the Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco on **May 26, 1989**.
(© Maher Attar/Sygma/Corbis)



President of Lebanon René Moawad, a Maronite Christian, shakes hands with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy in Ihden, Lebanon on **November 19, 1989**. Moawad was assassinated in Beirut, Lebanon on **November 22, 1989**. (Photo: Maher Attar/Sygma/Corbis)



President of South Africa Frederik W. de Klerk and his wife attend a public meeting in Witbank, Transvaal, South Africa on **August 30, 1989**. F.W. de Klerk, who ended apartheid in South Africa in 1990, was the President of South Africa from August 15, 1989 to May 10, 1994. (Photo: Richard Olivier/CORBIS)



Left photo: Aung San Suu Kyi, a Burmese human rights and political activist, appears in Rangoon, Burma in July 1989. The Burmese army junta leaders who ruled Burma under martial law placed Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest in Rangoon, Burma on **July 20, 1989**. Burma is a country that is known for opium trafficking; the "Golden Triangle" is located in eastern Burma. (Photo: Reuters/CORBIS)

Right photo: Texaco Chairman and CEO Alfred C. DeCrane Jr. (right) invites Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to the Harold Pratt House in New York City on **October 5, 1989**. DeCrane is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)



President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak (L) greets President of Israel Chaim Herzog during a bilateral meeting while both are in Tokyo, Japan to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito in this February 23, 1989 file photo. (REUTERS/Denis Gray/Files)



Ariel Sharon (right) meets with Council on Foreign Relations member Alton Frye at the Harold Pratt House in New York City on **September 13, 1989**. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)



President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak looks at American civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Jackson while greeting him at the start of a meeting in Cairo, Egypt in this July 7, 1989 file photo. (REUTERS/Cheryl Hatch)



Council on Foreign Relations member Edgar Bronfman (left) talks to Moshe Arad (center), the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. and Moshe Arens (right), the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Harold Pratt House in New York City on **March 16, 1989**. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak (L) meets with Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi at the Egyptian border city of Mersa Matrouh in this October 16, 1989 file photo. (REUTERS/Frederic Neema/Files)



Left photo: U.S. President George H.W. Bush (right, B.A. Yale 1948) speaks to Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the White House in Washington, D.C., America on **November 15, 1989**. Bush is a member of Skull & Bones and a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Shamir was a commander of the Stern Gang and a member of the Likud Party.

Right photo: Former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance (right, B.A. Yale 1939) appears with King Hussein of Jordan at the Harold Pratt House in New York City on **April 21, 1989**. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)

A “New World Order” in Latin America



Panama's ruler General Manuel Noriega waves his fist in Panama City, Panama on **October 4, 1989** after the failed coup d'etat.
(Photo: Patrick Chauvel/Sygma/Corbis)



American armed forces soldiers, wearing camouflage uniforms, arrest Panamanian civilians on the streets of Panama City, Panama on **December 26, 1989**. United States President George H. W. Bush ordered "Operation Just Cause," during which soldiers invaded Panama in December 1989 to depose Panama's ruler General Manuel Noriega.
(Photo: Les Stone/Sygma/Corbis)



(above) Smiles all around as the visiting Soviet leader prepares to leave Havana on April 5, 1989, but no agreements, and only an empty twenty-five-year “pact of friendship.” AP/Wide World Photos.

Cuban Commissar Fidel Castro celebrates with Soviet Russian Commissar Mikhail Gorbachev in Havana, Cuba on **April 5, 1989**. (AP/Wide World Photos)



David Rockefeller (left) introduces former President of Mexico Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado (1982-1988) at the Harold Pratt House in New York City on **May 4, 1989**. (Photo: 1989 Council on Foreign Relations Annual Report)

A “New Social Order”



Celebrities take part in a “pro-choice”, pro-abortion (infanticide) march in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on April 9, 1989. Among the celebrities in the march are: Reverend Jesse Jackson (second row, left), Morgan Fairchild, Jane Fonda, Judy Collins, Marlo Thomas, Whoopi Goldberg, and Cybill Shepherd. Their banner reads "KEEP ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL SAFE AND LEGAL." (© Susan Steinkamp/CORBIS)



American actress Jane Fonda (left) chats with Maria Shriver (center) and her husband Arnold Schwarzenegger at a premiere of "Old Gringo", to benefit the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Fund, in New York City on October 5, 1989. (© Bettmann/CORBIS)



Smoke and flames erupt from a fire in the marina area of San Francisco, California, U.S.A. on October 17-18, 1989. A section of the Bay Bridge also collapsed, and the upper deck of Oakland's Cypress Freeway collapsed crushing many cars causing several deaths. The Loma Prieta earthquake, also known as the Quake of '89 and the World Series Earthquake, was a major earthquake that struck the San Francisco Bay Area of California on October 17, 1989; the earthquake occurred during the warm-up practice for the third game of the 1989 World Series, a game that featured the Oakland Athletics and the San Francisco Giants. (The Golden Gate Bridge appears in the background.)
© Gerald French/Corbis)



Left photo: American singer Michael Jackson, live performance on the final night of his 1988-1989 tour at L.A. Sports Arena, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California. January 27, 1989. (© Greg Allen / Retna Ltd.)



Right photo: American singer Michael Jackson holds an American Music Award for lifetime achievement in Los Angeles, California on January 30, 1989. (AP Photo/Lennox McLendon)

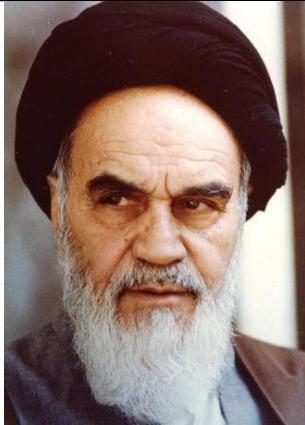


License To Kill, a James Bond movie, was released on July 14, 1989, the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

1989 Obituaries



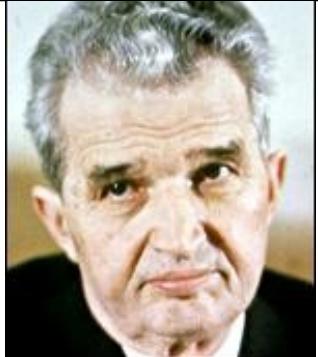
Emperor Hirohito of Japan
(April 29, 1901-January 7, 1989)
Emperor of Japan
(December 25, 1926-
January 7, 1989)



Grand Ayatollah Sayyed
Ruhollah Mostafavi Moosavi
Khomeini (Ayatollah Khomeini)
(September 24, 1902-
June 3, 1989)
1st Supreme Leader of Iran
(1979-1989)



Ferdinand Emmanuel Edralin
Marcos
(September 11, 1917-
September 28, 1989)
President of the Philippines
(1965-1986)

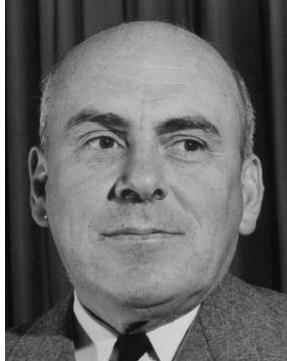


Nicolae Ceausescu
(January 26, 1918-
December 25, 1989)
President of Romania
(1974-1989)



Philip D. Reed
(November 16, 1899-
March 10, 1989)

Chairman of the Federal Reserve
Bank of New York (1960-1965)

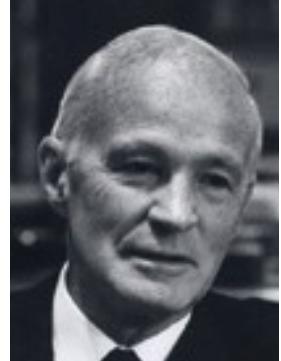


John J. McCloy
(March 31, 1895-March 11,
1989)

Chairman of the board of Chase
Manhattan Bank (1955-1961)



Robert Bernard Anderson
(June 4, 1910-August 14, 1989)
U.S. Secretary of the Treasury
(1957-1961)



Alfred Hayes
(July 4, 1910-October 21, 1989)
President of the Federal Reserve
Bank of New York (1956-1975)



Theodore Robert "Ted" Bundy
(November 24, 1946-
January 24, 1989)
American Serial Killer



Andrei Gromyko
(July 18, 1909-July 2, 1989)
Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs
(1957-1985)



Dr. Angelo Bartlett Giamatti,
Ph.D.
(April 4, 1938-
September 1, 1989)
President of Yale University
(1979-1986)



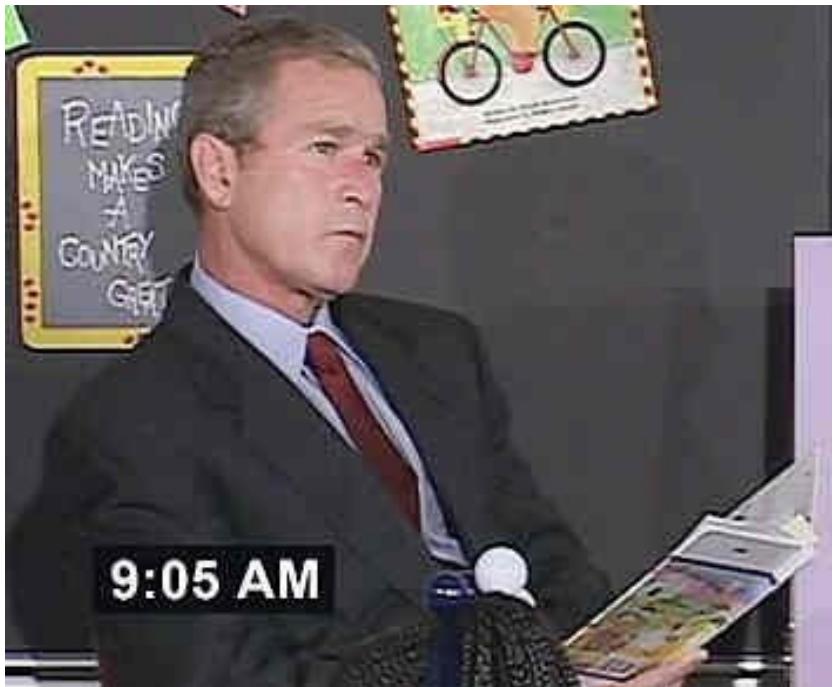
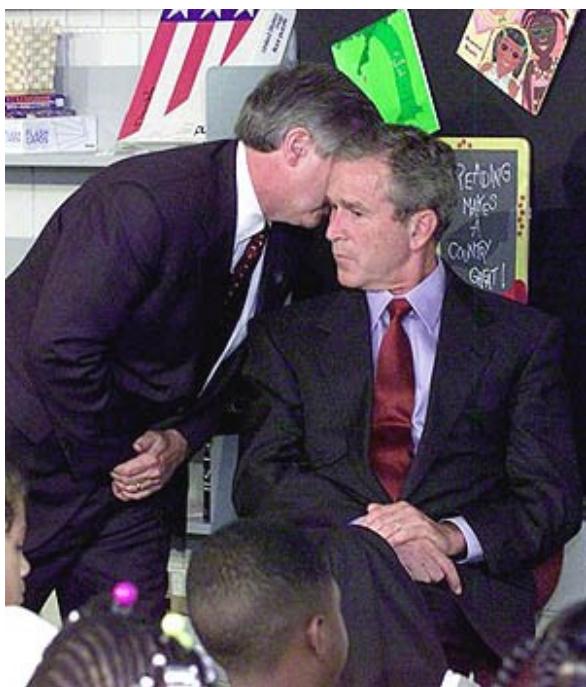
René Moawad
(April 17, 1925-
November 22, 1989)
President of Lebanon
(November 5, 1989-
November 22, 1989)
Assassinated via car bomb in
Beirut, Lebanon on November
22, 1989

2001: Year of the Snake

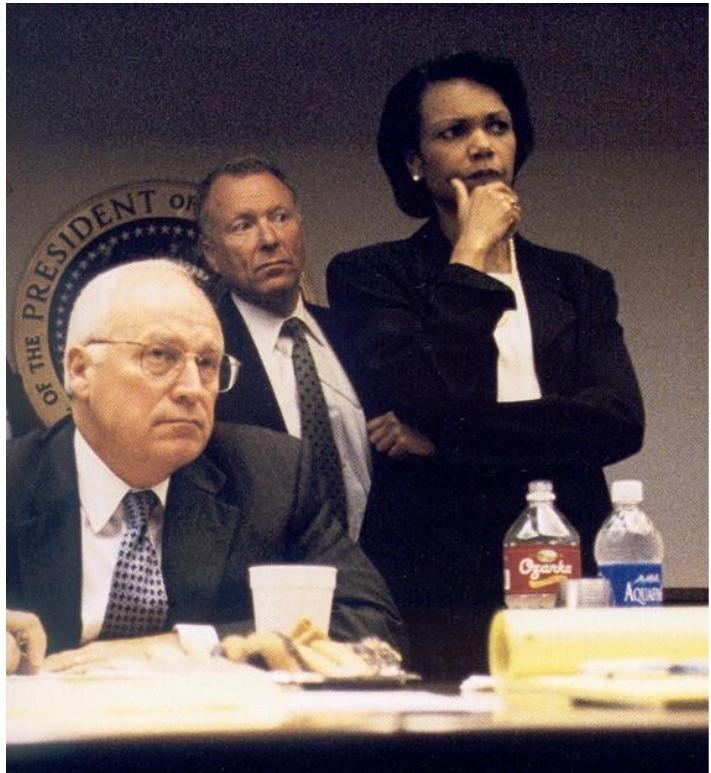
World Trade Center & War on Terrorism



United Airlines Flight 175 hits the World Trade Center South Tower at 9:03 A.M. on September 11, 2001.



"A second plane has hit the tower. America is under attack." – Andrew Card



Left photo: White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card (left) interrupts President George W. Bush during a reading event at Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida on September 11, 2001. Bush was being told about the two planes that crashed into the World Trade Center towers in New York City. (Paul J Richards/AFP)

Right photo: Vice President Dick Cheney, Chief of Staff to the Vice President Lewis "Scooter" Libby, and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice observe the destruction of the Pentagon and the World Trade Center inside the Presidential Emergency Operations Center in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001. All three individuals are members of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Upper right photo: President George W. Bush is seen reading a book about a pet goat at 9:05 A.M. at Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, Florida on September 11, 2001. President Bush began reading the book minutes after White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card informed him about the second airplane crashing into the World Trade Center in New York City. In the occult religion, a goat symbolizes Satan; George W. Bush is a member of Skull & Bones, a secret society at Yale University.



Vice President Dick Cheney speaks to administration officials inside the Presidential Emergency Operations Center, an underground office, in Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001. Individuals listening to Cheney include (from far left) Joshua B. Bolten, Karen Hughes (seated), Mary Matalin (standing), National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and Lewis 'Scooter' Libby (standing, second from right with arms folded). Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, and Lewis 'Scooter' Libby were members of the Council on Foreign Relations in 2000, 2001, and 2002. (Photo: http://blog.washingtonpost.com/cheney/chapters/chapter_1/comments.html)



President George W. Bush (left) and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld look over the scene of destruction at the Pentagon on September 12, 2001. (Photo by R.D. Ward/U.S. Department of Defense)



President George W. Bush meets with his advisors after returning to the White House on **Tuesday evening, September 11, 2001** following the 9/11 attacks. From left to right: Vice President Dick Cheney; Chief of Staff Andy Card; Condoleezza Rice, National Security Adviser; and Special Agent Carl Truscott of the U.S. Secret Service in the Presidential Emergency Operations Center of the White House.

(Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush meets with his National Security Council in the Presidential Emergency Operations Center of the White House on **Tuesday evening, September 11, 2001**, soon after addressing the nation in a televised speech. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



Deputy U.S. Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz talks with, from left, Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense; Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State; and Lewis Libby, Chief of Staff for the Vice President in the Cabinet Room of the White House on **September 12, 2001**. Wolfowitz, Powell, and Libby were members of the Council on Foreign Relations at the time of this photograph. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush meets with his National Security Council in the Cabinet Room of the White House on September 12, 2001. Seated with the President from left are: Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense; Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State; and Vice President Dick Cheney. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush outlines the new course for his administration during a meeting with his National Security Council in the Cabinet Room of the White House on September 12, 2001. Seated with the President from left are: Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense; Colin Powell, Secretary of State; Vice President Dick Cheney; and Gen. Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Seated in the background on the left are (left to right): Stephen Hadley, Scooter Libby, Paul Wolfowitz, and Richard Armitage. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



Led in prayer by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, right, President George W. Bush joins his Cabinet as they bow their heads before beginning their meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House on Friday, September 14, 2001. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush grasps the hand of his father, former President George H. W. Bush, at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on Friday, September 14, 2001, after speaking at the service for America's National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. Seated with the President from left are: Mrs. Barbara Bush, Former President Bill Clinton, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Chelsea Clinton.

(Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush, Mrs. Laura Bush, Former President George H. W. Bush, Mrs. Barbara Bush, former President Bill Clinton, U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Chelsea Clinton, bow their heads during the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance service at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on Friday, September 14, 2001. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



U.S. President George W. Bush meets with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and his staff at the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. on September 12, 2001. From left to right: Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Rumsfeld, Bush, and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. (Photo by Helene C. Stikkel/U.S. Department of Defense)



Michael Chertoff (right), the Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Criminal Enforcement, is seen talking to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft before a House committee on September 24, 2001. ([Win McNamee/Reuters](#))



President George W. Bush's war cabinet meet at Camp David on September 15, 2001. Clockwise from left: U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, Vice-President Cheney, Bush, Secretary of State Powell, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, FBI Director Robert Mueller, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, CIA Director George Tenet, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Henry Shelton.
(Photo: J Scott Applewhite/AP)



President George W. Bush meets with the National Security Council in the Situation Room of the White House on September 20, 2001. Participants from left include: Robert Mueller, Director of the FBI; Lewis Libby, Chief of Staff to the Vice President; George Tenet, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); Attorney General John Ashcroft; Paul O'Neill, Secretary of Treasury; Vice President Dick Cheney; Colin Powell, Secretary of State; Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense; and Gen. Henry Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
(Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush meets with CIA Director George Tenet (right), National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice (above, left), and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card (lower left) at Camp David in Maryland on September 29, 2001 to discuss the invasion of Afghanistan. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush meets with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director George Tenet, Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice in the Oval Office of the White House on October 7, 2001. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



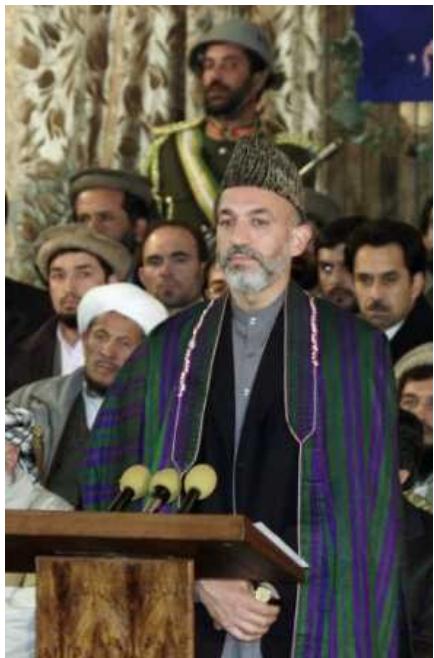
President George W. Bush signs the **USA Patriot Act** in the East Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on October 26, 2001. Standing behind the President from left are: U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft; Sen. Orrin Hatch, Republican-Utah; Sen. Patrick Leahy, Democrat-Vermont; Sen. Harry Reid, Democrat-Nevada; Representative James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, and Sen. Bob Graham, Democrat-Florida. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



FBI Director Robert Mueller, CIA Director George Tenet, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge confer in the Cabinet Room of the White House on October 29, 2001. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



Arab terrorist Osama bin Laden escaped and evaded American capture on December 16, 2001 despite the Afghan and American assault on Tora Bora. (Erik de Castro/Reuters) <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/11/magazine/11TORABORA.html>



Left: Hamid Karzai is sworn in as the Interim Prime Minister of Afghanistan on December 22, 2001. (AP Photo)
Right: Arab terrorist and former CIA agent Osama bin Laden delivers a speech in his November 3, 2001 videotape.

"Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. From this day forward, any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime."

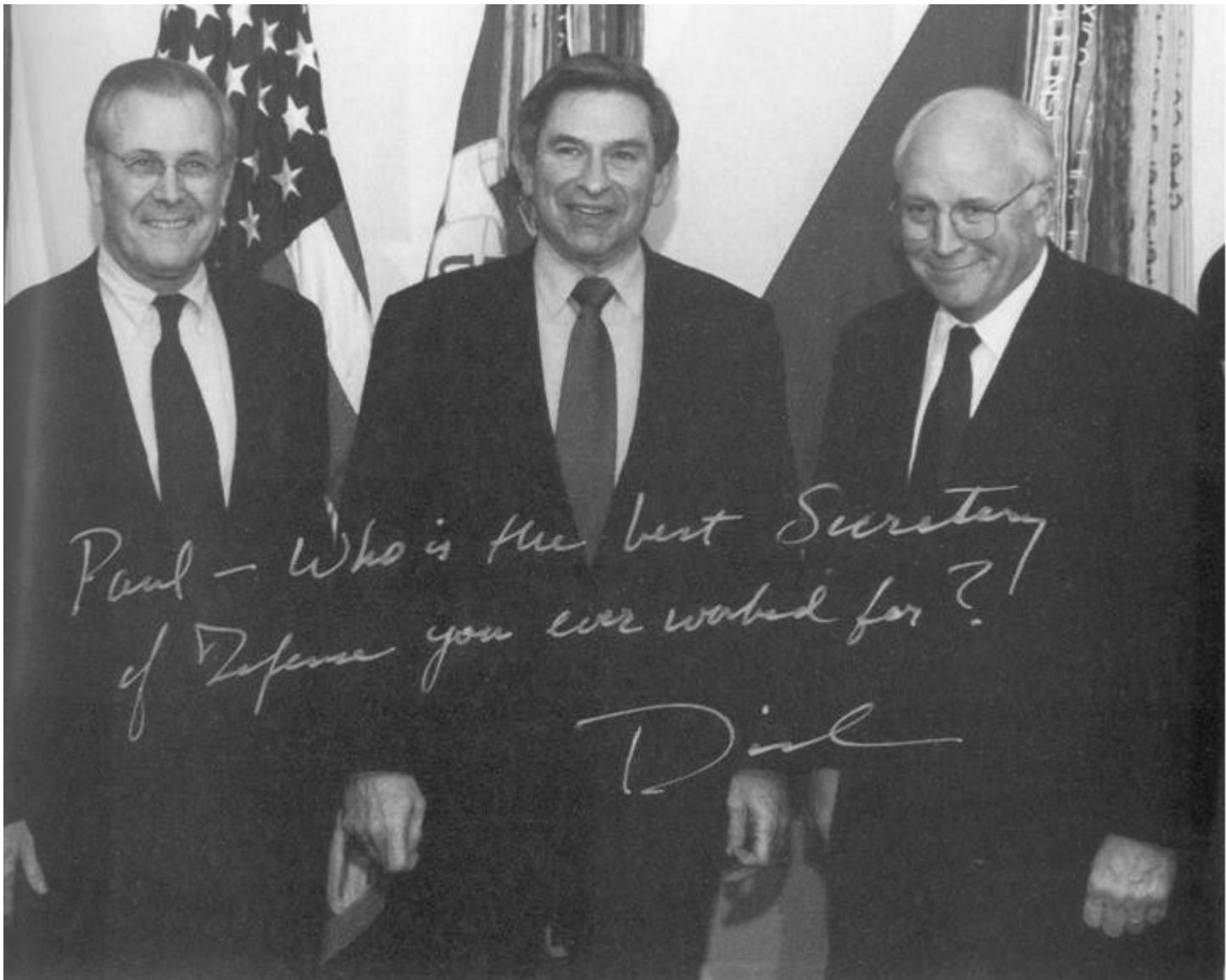
– President George W. Bush, September 20, 2001

"Well, I think most people in the world understand that I was very serious, and they're serious, when we say if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist."

– President George W. Bush, on September 25, 2001

"Let us never tolerate outrageous conspiracy theories concerning the attacks of September the 11th; malicious lies that attempt to shift the blame away from the terrorists, themselves, away from the guilty."

– President George W. Bush, November 10, 2001



Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, and Dick Cheney appear together in March 2001. Inscription: "Paul - Who's the best Secretary of Defense you ever worked for? Dick." All three men were members of the Project for the New American Century. (U.S. Department of Defense photo) (Source: *Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet* by James Mann)



Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, right, shakes hands with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) prior to testifying before the Senate Budget Committee on Capitol Hill on January 25, 2001. (Photo by Alex Wong/Newsmakers)



Presider William J. Crowe, Speaker General Michael E. Ryan, Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, Speaker General Eric K. Shinseki, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Speaker Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy, and Speaker General Michael J. Williams, Assistant Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, at the January 4, 2001, John Train Lecture, "U.S. Defense Policy Under the New Administration."

Left to right: Retired U.S. Navy Admiral William J. Crowe, U.S. Air Force Gen. Michael E. Ryan, U.S. Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Navy Admiral Vern Clark, and U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Michael J. Williams appear at a meeting on **January 4, 2001**. All five men in this photo are (or were) members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations 2001 Annual Report)



The Joint Chiefs of Staff are photographed in the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gold Room, more commonly known as The Tank, in the Pentagon on **January 11, 2001**. From left to right are: Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Myers, U.S. Air Force, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James L. Jones Jr., and U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations Vernon Clark. All six officers are (or were) members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)



President George W. Bush (left), Vice President Dick Cheney (second from left), Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (third from left) and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice prepare to receive a briefing in the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on August 1, 2001. (Photo: [U.S. Department of Defense](#))



Left to right: Former U.S. Senator Warren B. Rudman, former U.S. Senator Gary Hart, former Secretary of Defense Frank C. Carlucci (also Chairman of the Carlyle Group), and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich appear at a Council on Foreign Relations meeting in June 2001. Warren B. Rudman, Gary Hart, and Newt Gingrich were members of the Hart-Rudman Commission. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations 2001 Annual Report)



William J. McDonough and Speaker Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy, at the January 4, 2001, John Train Lecture, "U.S. Defense Policy Under the New Administration."

William J. McDonough, the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, speaks with U.S. Navy Admiral Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, at a meeting on January 4, 2001. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations 2001 Annual Report)



Henry Kissinger, Richard V. Allen, Richard Holbrooke, Robert C. McFarlane, and Brent Scowcroft discuss national security matters at the Harold Pratt House on February 15, 2001. Everyone but Holbrooke is a former National Security Advisor.
(Photo: Council on Foreign Relations 2001 Annual Report)



Ronald D. Asmus, Morton H. Halperin, Richard C. Holbrooke, and Richard Perle appear at a Council on Foreign Relations meeting at the Harold Pratt House on May 22, 2001. (Photo: Council on Foreign Relations 2001 Annual Report)



Left to right: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton, President-elect George W. Bush, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, and Vice President-elect Dick Cheney talk to reporters before starting their meeting in the Tank at the Pentagon on January 10, 2001. Shelton, Cohen, and Cheney were members of the Council on Foreign Relations at the time this photo was taken.
(Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)



Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen (right), Secretary of Defense-designate Donald H. Rumsfeld (center), Defense Department Transition Team Chief Zalmay M. Khalilzad (left) meet in William S. Cohen's Pentagon office for a working breakfast on January 5, 2001. Zalmay M. Khalilzad and William S. Cohen are members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo by R. D. Ward, U.S. Department of Defense)



Hollywood movie *Pearl Harbor* was released on May 25, 2001.

"Further, the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event – like a new Pearl Harbor. Domestic politics and industrial policy will shape the pace and content of transformation as much as the requirements of current missions."

– Project for the New American Century (PNAC), September 2000 report *Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources For a New Century*, Section V ("Creating Tomorrow's Dominant Force"), p. 51

LET THE
MAGIC BEGIN



WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A HEYDAY FILMS/1492 PICTURES/DUNCAN HENDERSON PRODUCTION & CHRIS COLUMBUS FILM "HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE" DANIEL RADCLIFFE RUPERT GRINT EMMA WATSON
STARRING JOHN CLESE ROBBIE COLTRANE WARWICK DAVIS RICHARD GRIFFITHS RICHARD HARRIS IAN HART JOHN HURT ALAN RICKMAN FIONA SHAW MAGGIE SMITH JULIE WALTERS
MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS DIRECTED BY RICHARD FRANCIS-BRUCE, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER STUART CRAIG DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN SEALE, A.C.S., A.S.C.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER CHRIS COLUMBUS MARK RADCLIFFE MICHAEL BARNATHAN DUNCAN HENDERSON PRODUCED BY DAVID HEYMAN DIRECTED BY CHRIS COLUMBUS SCREENPLAY BY STEVE KLOVES BASED ON THE BOOKS BY J.K. ROWLING

PG-13 PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
Some Material May Not Be Suitable for Children
Violent Moments and Mild Language

America Online Keyword: Harry Potter

www.harrypotter.com

Soundtrack Album on
Warner Sunred/Atlantic Records

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IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 16

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone was released in America on November 16, 2001.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING™



The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring was released in America December 19, 2001.



Michael Jackson (center) poses with (left to right): JC Chasez, Lance Bass, Chris Kirkpatrick, and Justin Timberlake of the "NSync" music band at the 16th Annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Dinner in New York City on **March 19, 2001**. (Photo: © Steve Azzara/Corbis)



Left photo: From left to right: Director Ted Demme, Penelope Cruz, Johnny Depp, and Marilyn Manson arrive at the premiere of movie "**Blow**" in Los Angeles on **March 29, 2001**. (Photo: © Frank Trapper/Corbis)

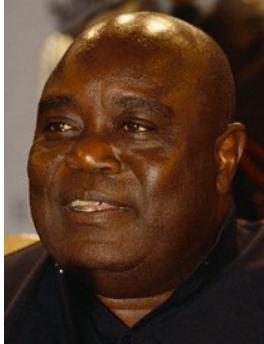


Right photo: Hollywood actor Johnny Depp (star of film) appears with Marilyn Manson and Dita at the "**From Hell**" movie premiere in Los Angeles on **October 17, 2001**. (Photo: © Frank Trapper/Corbis)



Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court William Rehnquist (right) administers the oath of office to President George W. Bush in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on January 20, 2001. (Associated Press)

2001 Obituaries



Laurent-Desire Kabila
(November 27, 1939–January 18, 2001)

President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1997-2001); assassinated and died in office



King Birendra of Nepal
(December 28, 1945–June 1, 2001)

King of Nepal (1972-2001); assassinated and died in office



Timothy McVeigh
(April 23, 1968–June 11, 2001)

Oklahoma City Bomber; Executed in prison



Katharine Graham
(June 16, 1917–July 17, 2001)

Chairman of the board of The Washington Post Co. (1973-1993)



Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu
(April 5, 1923–September 29, 2001); died in Boston

President of the Republic of Vietnam [South Vietnam] (1965-1975)



U.S. President Bill Clinton (foreground, left) and his daughter Chelsea Clinton watch as Vice President Al Gore (right) administers the oath of office to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (2nd right) on her first day in office as a U.S. Senator from New York at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on January 3, 2001. (Photo: Ron Sachs/CNP/Sygma/Corbis)



Prominent businessmen and politicians, including Dick Grasso, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, and New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani, appear at a press conference in New York City on September 17, 2001, just after the New York Stock Exchange was re-opened six days after the implosion of the World Trade Center and the attack on the Pentagon.



U.S. President George W. Bush reads a statement as Pope John Paul II listens at the Pope's country retreat Castel Gandolfo near Rome, Italy on **July 23, 2001**. (REUTERS/Win McNamee)



Yasser Arafat, right, and Pope John Paul II (left) greet Arab terrorist Yasser Arafat at the papal summer residence Castel Gandolfo, near Rome, Italy on **August 2, 2001**. (Reuters/CORBIS)



Arab terrorist Yasser Arafat (left) and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan answer questions at a joint press conference in the Hotel Seehof in Davos, Switzerland during the Annual Meeting 2001 of the World Economic Forum on **January 28, 2001**. Arafat and Annan discussed the development in the Middle East peace process.

POOL KEYSTONE/Photo by Alessandro Della Valle

Copyright [World Economic Forum](http://www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/350340822/) (Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/350340822/>)



"Palestinian" Arab terrorist Yasser Arafat (R) shakes hands with Minister of Regional Cooperation of Israel Shimon Peres (left) as an unidentified translator applauds at the beginning of a session entitled 'From Peacemaking to Peacebuilding' at the Annual Meeting 2001 of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on **January 28, 2001**.

swiss-image.ch/Photo by Remy Steinegger

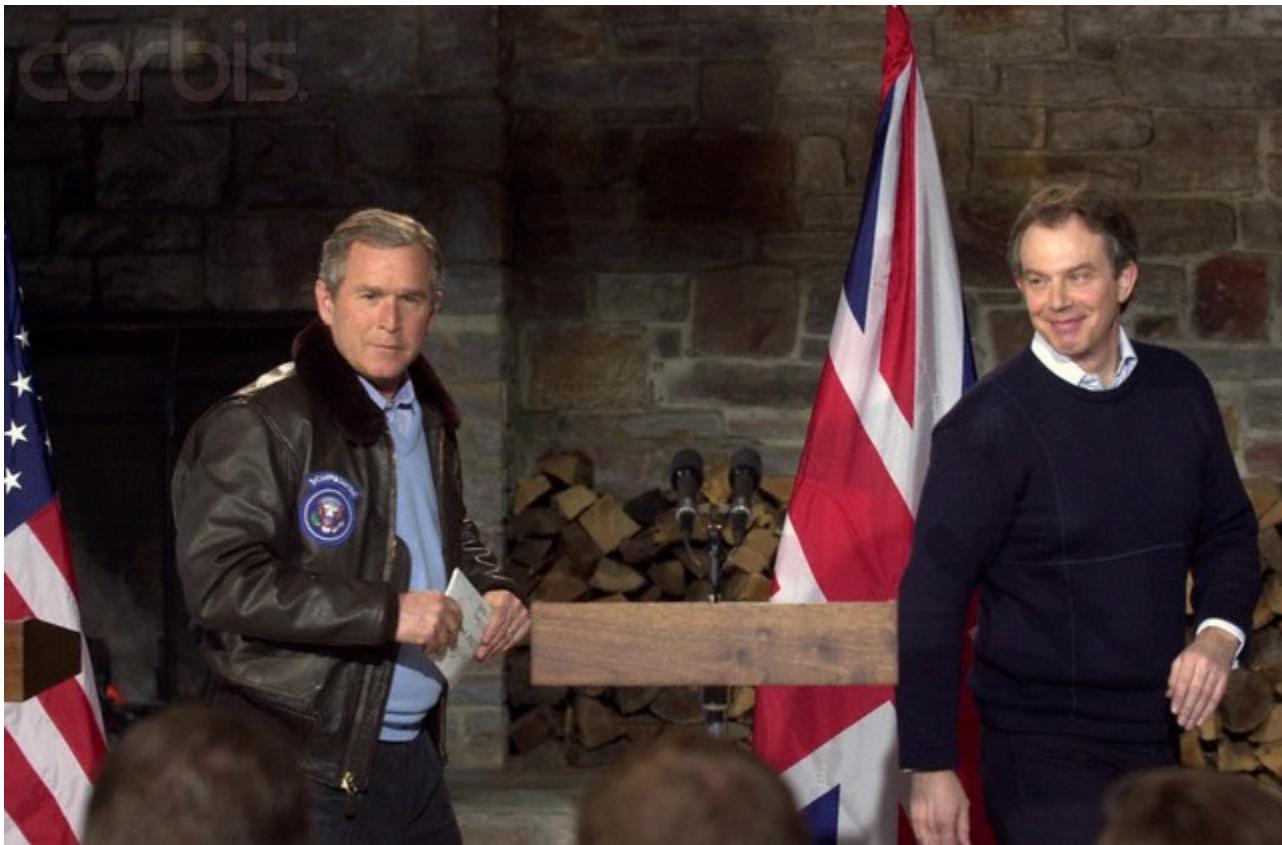
Copyright [World Economic Forum](http://www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/350344633/) (Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/350344633/>)



Communist China's Commissar Jiang Zemin clasps hands with visiting Palestine Liberation Organization terrorist Yasser Arafat at Zhongnanhai leadership compound in Beijing on August 24, 2001. (Andrew Wong/Pool Reuters/EPA/Corbis)



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) greets Palestine Liberation Organization terrorist Yasser Arafat on his arrival at 10 Downing Street in London on October 15, 2001. Blair and Arafat are meeting to discuss the stalled Middle East peacemaking and American-led strikes on Afghanistan. (REUTERS/CORBIS/Michael Crabtree)



U.S. President George W. Bush and Prime Minister of Great Britain Tony Blair hold a joint press conference after their "get acquainted" talks at Camp David, Maryland, U.S.A. on February 23, 2001. (Ron Sachs/Corbis Sygma)



A Special Meeting of the North Atlantic Council with the Participation of Heads of State and Government is held in Brussels, Belgium on June 13, 2001. Left to right: Mr. Tony Blair (Prime Minister of Great Britain); U.S. President George W. Bush; Mr. Colin Powell (U.S. Secretary of State); NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson. (Photo: [NATO Photo](#))



Hours before addressing Congress and the nation, President George W. Bush talks privately with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in the Blue Room at the White House on September 20, 2001. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



President George W. Bush meets with Foreign Minister Saudi Al-Fail of Saudi Arabia in the Oval Office on September 20, 2001. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Prince Bandar are seen standing in front of the President's desk. (Photo: [National Archives](#))



Vice President Dick Cheney shakes hands with former President Bill Clinton after being sworn in by Supreme Court Chief Justice William J. Rehnquist as President George W. Bush looks on outside the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. on **January 20, 2001**. Dick Cheney and Bill Clinton are members of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo by Mark Wilson/Newsmakers)



President of Mexico Vicente Fox (left), Prime Minister of Canada Jean Chretien (center), and President GEORGE W. BUSH pose for photographers during a trilateral meeting in the old Quebec City on April 22, 2001, right after the closing ceremony of the Third Summit of the Americas, where they and 31 other heads of state and government agreed to implement the world's largest free trade zone. (Andre Forget/AFP/Getty Images)



President-elect George W. Bush (left) appears with Kenneth Lay (right), the Chairman and CEO of Enron, and Nancy Lazar, executive vice president of International Strategy and Investments, at an economic forum in Austin, Texas, USA in this **January 3, 2001** file photo. The indictment of U.S. President George W. Bush's one-time friend and financial backer, former Enron CEO Kenneth Lay, has put the spotlight back on Bush's ties to big corporate donors as he heads into the final months of the U.S. presidential campaign. Democrats seized on the indictment of the man nicknamed "Kenny Boy" by Bush to attack the president's personal and financial ties to Enron, including suggesting the criminal action had been delayed. (© JEFF MITCHELL/Reuters/Corbis)



President George W. Bush and Citigroup banker Robert Rubin (left), former Treasury Secretary, former Partner of Goldman Sachs, and the chairman of the executive committee of Citigroup, look on before Bush makes a keynote address at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Shanghai, Communist China on **October 20, 2001**. Robert Rubin is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private organization in New York City. (Bobby Yip/Reuters/CORBIS)



Twelve African heads of state and chief executives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pose for pictures in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on **February 23, 2001**. (From left to right, front row): World Bank President James Wolfensohn, Dictator of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe, President of Kenya Daniel arap Moi, President of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa, President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni, President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano, and IMF Managing Director Horst Kohler. (From left to right, back row): President of Eritrea Issaias Afeworki, President of Botswana Festus Mogae, President of Malawi Bakili Muluzi, President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, President of Zambia Frederick Chiluba, Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi, and President of Rwanda Paul Kagame. (Alexander Joe/AFP/Getty Images)



World Bank President James Wolfensohn (left) greets United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in Ottawa, Canada on **November 17, 2001**. James Wolfensohn is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private organization in New York City, and a prominent Bilderberg Meetings participant. (Andre Forget/AFP/Getty Images)



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton meets Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands at the Huis ten Bosch palace in The Hague, Netherlands on March 12, 2001. Bill Clinton and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands attended the Bilderberg Meetings together in 1991. (Reuters/Pool/Ed Oudenaarden)



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton greets Prime Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt at Grand Hotel in Stockholm, Sweden on May 15, 2001. Carl Bildt is a longtime member of the Trilateral Commission and a prominent Bilderberg Meetings participant. Bill Clinton is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a Rhodes Scholar, and a former member of the Trilateral Commission.



NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson (left) talks to Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz (center) and U.S. Representative to NATO R. Nicholas Burns behind closed doors at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on September 26, 2001. (NATO Photo)



Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns (left), the U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO, watches Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (center) shake hands with NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson on December 18, 2001. (NATO Photo)



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (left) Inspects the Russian army at Victory Park during an armed forces honors ceremony welcoming him to Moscow, Russia on August 11, 2001. Rumsfeld is escorted by Military Commandant of Moscow General-Major Aleksandr N. Denisov (right, saluting). Donald Rumsfeld was in Russia to meet with Russian defense leaders and discuss the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Donald Rumsfeld is a former member of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo by Helene C. Stikkel, U.S. Department of Defense)



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (left) and Russia's President Vladimir Putin (right) pose for photographers as they meet in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia on November 3, 2001. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (left) meets with George H.W. Bush (center) and James A. Baker III at Rice University in Houston, Texas on November 14, 2001. (Presidential Press and Information Office/Kremlin Archives) <http://archive.kremlin.ru/events/photos/2001/11/39974.shtml>



National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice (left) greets Russia's President Vladimir Putin on November 14, 2001. (Presidential Press and Information Office/Kremlin Archives) <http://archive.kremlin.ru/events/photos/2001/11/39974.shtml>



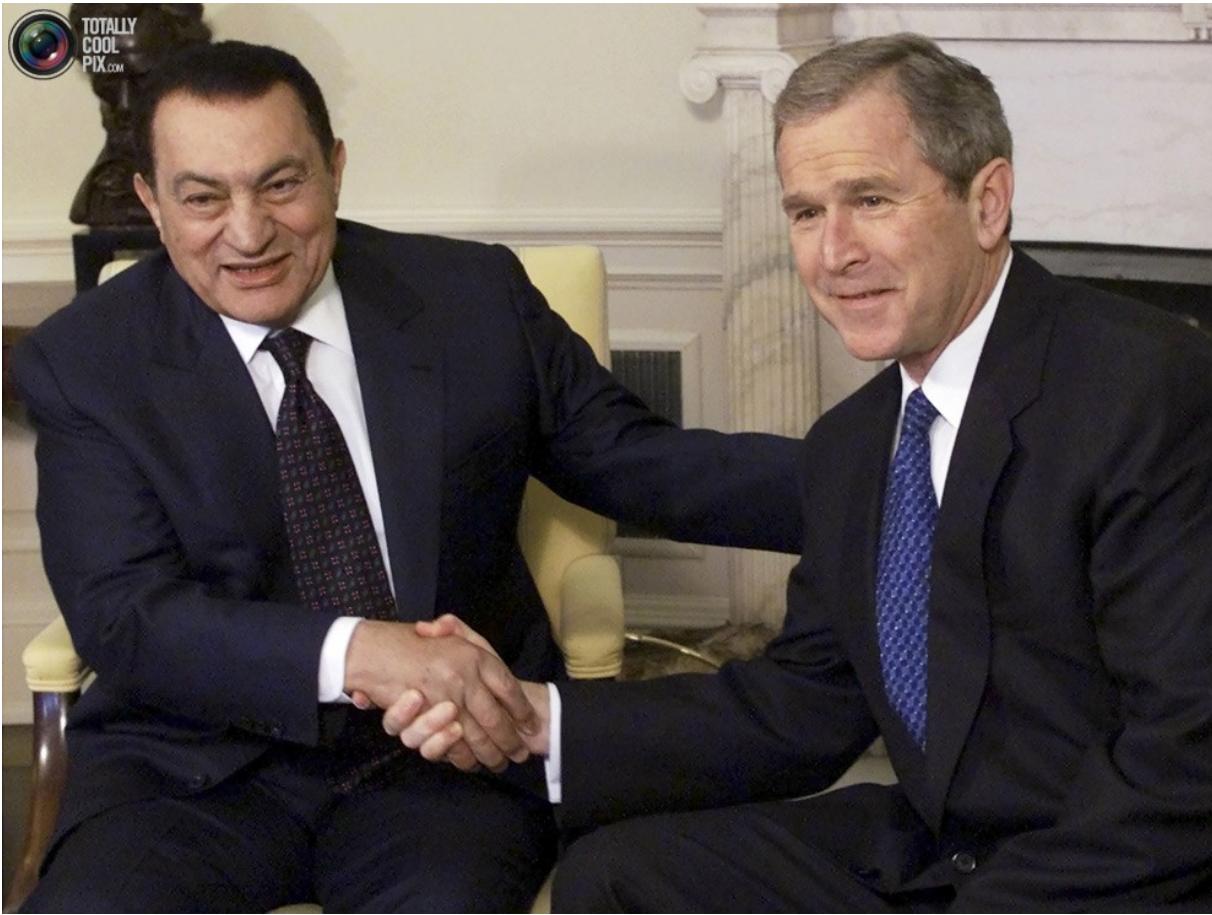
Russia's President Vladimir Putin (left) and President George W. Bush smile for the camera in Texas on November 15, 2001. (Presidential Press and Information Office/Kremlin Archives) <http://archive.kremlin.ru/events/photos/2001/11/39974.shtml>



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (left) meets with Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Secretary of State and honorary IOC member during the opening ceremony of the 112th Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Moscow, Russia on **July 12, 2001**. (Photo: Russian Presidential Press and Information Office/Kremlin)



President of Russia Vladimir Putin meets with North Korea's commissar Kim Jong Il (left) at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Russia on **August 4, 2001**. (Photo: Russian Presidential Press and Information Office/Kremlin)



Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak (left) shakes hands with U.S. President George W. Bush in the Oval Office of the White House in this **April 2, 2001** file photograph. (REUTERS/Win McNamee/Files)



Left to right: "Palestinian" Arab terrorist Yasser Arafat, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, Prime Minister of Spain Jose Maria Aznar and Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres laugh during the Euro-Mediterranean forum in the resort of Formentor on the Spanish island of Majorca in this **November 2, 2001** file photo. (REUTERS/Dani Cardona/Files)



From left to right, David Ivry, Israeli Ambassador to the United States; Paul D. Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of Israel; Donald H. Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense; and Martin Indyk, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, pose for a group photo at the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. on March 19, 2001. Paul D. Wolfowitz and Martin Indyk are members of the Council on Foreign Relations; Martin Indyk is a naturalized American citizen. (Photo: Robert D. Ward/U.S. Department of Defense)



Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (right) meets with Jacob Frenkel (left), then the Governor of the Bank of Israel, Stanley Fischer (second from left), then the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Gaby Fishman at the Knesset in Jerusalem, Israel on May 14, 2001. Both Jacob Frenkel and Stanley Fischer are members of the Trilateral Commission, members of the Group of Thirty (G-30), and directors of the Institute for International Economics. Stanley Fischer was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a member of the Trilateral Commission at the time this photo was taken on May 14, 2001. (Photo: [Amos Ben Gershon/Israeli Government Press office \(GPO\)](#))



Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld escorts Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. on March 19, 2001. (Photo: [R.D. Ward, U.S. Department of Defense](#))



Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger talks to Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon at the Israeli Consul General's home in New York City on June 25, 2001. Henry Kissinger was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (a private organization in New York City) and a member of the Trilateral Commission (a private organization in Washington, D.C.) at the time this photo was taken on June 25, 2001. (Photo: [Avi Ohayon/Israel Government Press Office \(GPO\)](#))



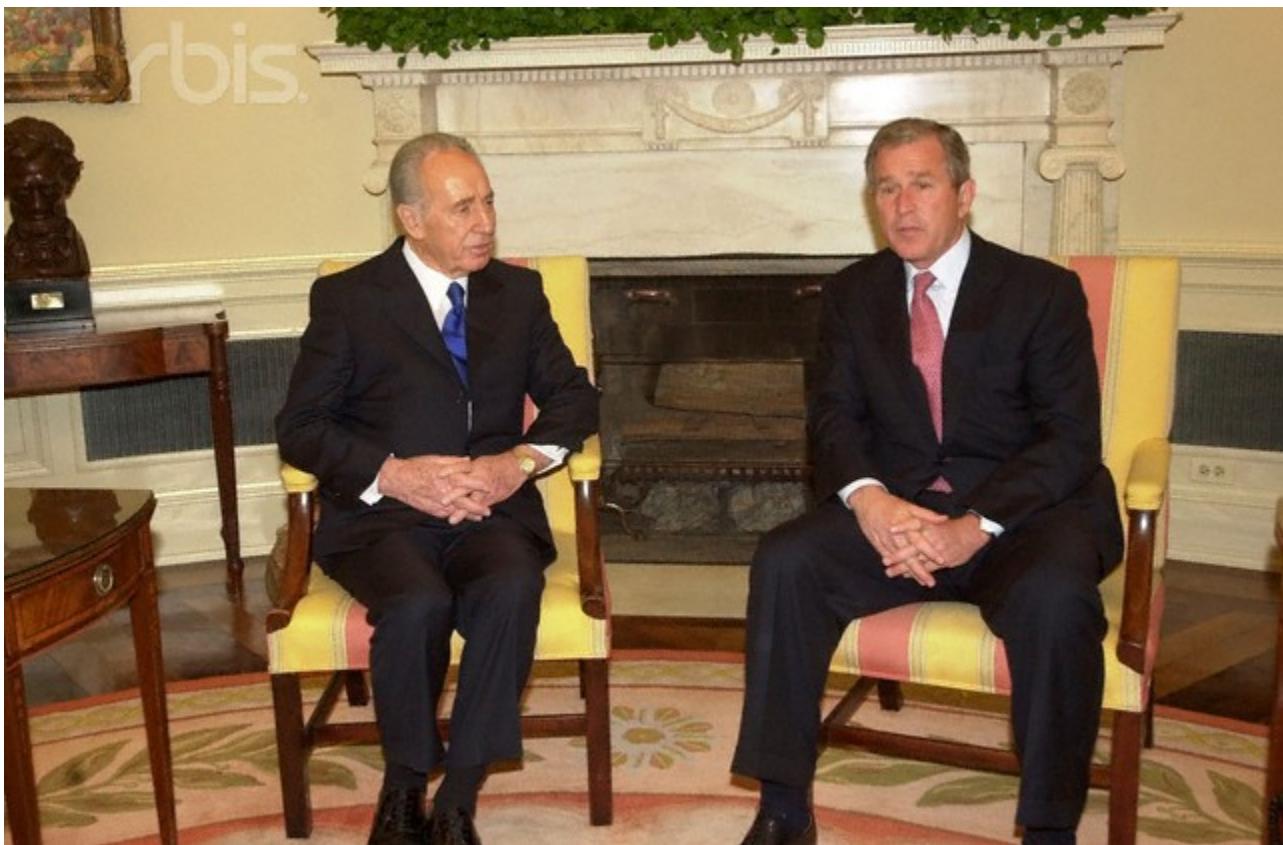
Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon prays at the Western Wall [Wailing Wall] in Jerusalem, Israel on February 7, 2001, the day after his landslide election victory. (Photo: Ricki Rosen/Corbis)



Newly inaugurated Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon (center) toasts his 'national unity' government of 26 ministers (the largest in Israeli history) in Jerusalem, Israel on March 7, 2001. Shimon Peres (third row, third from right) appears in the background. Ariel Sharon was the Prime Minister of Israel from March 7, 2001 to April 14, 2006; Ariel Sharon suffered a stroke on January 4, 2006. (Photo: Pool/Ricki Rosen/Corbis Saba)



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell (left) meets with Israel's Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem, Israel on February 25, 2001.
(Photo: © Ricki Rosen/Corbis)



U.S. President George W. Bush meets with Foreign Minister of Israel Shimon Peres (left) in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on May 3, 2001. (Photo: Ron Sachs/Corbis Sygma)



Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon (left) meets with U.S. President George W. Bush in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on June 26, 2001. (Photo: Ron Sachs/Corbis Sygma)



Israeli Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon (left) and the French President Jacques Chirac shake hands on the steps of the Elysee Palace in Paris, France on July 5, 2001. (Photo: Bernard Bisson/Sygma/Corbis)



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (left) confers with Deputy Prime Minister of Israel Shimon Peres before engaging in formal discussions in the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. on October 22, 2001. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)



New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (left) talks to the press as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon smiles after visiting Ground Zero of World Trade Center wreckage in New York City November 30, 2001. (Pool Photo/Getty Images)



Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (wearing glasses) listens as New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (wearing a hat and tie) talks to the press at the site of the World Trade Center site in New York City on October 2, 2001. (Tony Gutierrez/AFP/Getty Images)



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld (left) and New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani (right) talk to reporters at Ground Zero on November 14, 2001. Rumsfeld was visiting the World Trade Center site to speak to Rudy Giuliani, officials from the New York Fire Department, and officials from the Office of Emergency Management. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense)



Michael Bloomberg (left), the Mayor-elect of New York City, chats with Larry Silverstein, leaseholder of the World Trade Center site, on November 21, 2001 in Bloomberg's transitional offices in New York City. Silverstein has announced that he plans on rebuilding office towers at the former World Trade Center site. (Photo by Chris Hondros/Getty Images)



Left to right: Larry Silverstein, Nicholas Economides, and Stephen Schwarzman participate in a meeting called "CEO Summit on Rebuilding Confidence in the U.S. Economy" held at New York University on December 7, 2001. Larry Silverstein was the landlord of the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001. Stephen Schwarzman is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a member of Skull & Bones at Yale University. (Photo: [New York University](#))



World Trade Center landlord Larry Silverstein (foreground) gives a thumbs-up in a meeting called "CEO Summit on Rebuilding Confidence in the U.S. Economy" held at New York University in New York City on **December 7, 2001**. Participants observing in the background are (left to right) New York University professor Nicholas Economides, Blackstone Group chairman Stephen Schwarzman, and John Edward Sexton. (Photo: [New York University](#))

Prominent Individuals born in the Year of the Snake



Richard B. "Dick" Cheney
(Born **January 30, 1941**)
Vice President of the U.S.
(2001-2009); U.S.
Secretary of Defense
(1989-1993)



Richard Andrew Gephardt
(Born **January 31, 1941**)
House Minority Leader
(1995-2003)



David L. Boren
(Born **April 21, 1941**)
B.A. Yale 1963
U.S. Senator (D-Okl.,
1979-1994); President of
University of Oklahoma
(1994-present)



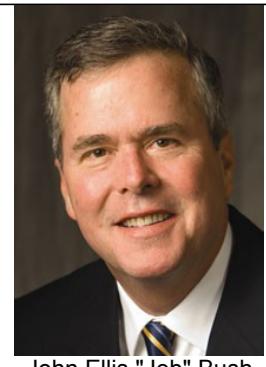
Slobodan Milosevic
(Born **August 20, 1941**;
Died March 11, 2006)
President of Yugoslavia/
Serbia (1989-2000)



L. Paul Bremer III
(Born **Sept. 30, 1941**)
B.A. Yale 1963
U.S. Ambassador to the
Netherlands (1983-1986);
Pro-Consul of Iraq
(2003-2004)



George J. Tenet
(Born **January 5, 1953**)
Director of Central
Intelligence Agency
(1997-2004)



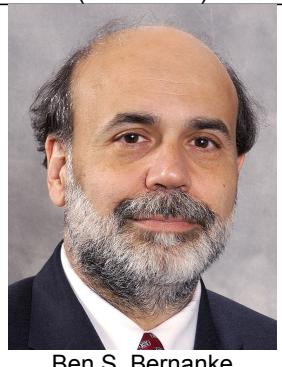
John Ellis "Jeb" Bush
(Born **February 11, 1953**)
Governor of Florida
(1999-2007)



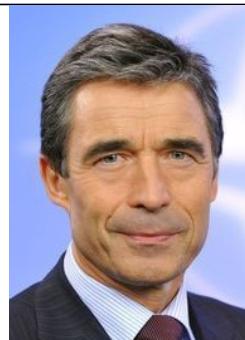
Douglas J. Feith
(Born **July 16, 1953**)
B.A. Harvard 1975
Under Secretary of
Defense for Policy
(2001-2005)



Michael Chertoff
(Born **Nov. 28, 1953**)
B.A. Harvard 1975;
J.D. Harvard 1978
Secretary of Homeland
Security (2005-2009)



Ben S. Bernanke
(Born **Dec. 13, 1953**)
B.A. Harvard 1975
Chairman of the Federal
Reserve (2006-2014)



Anders Fogh Rasmussen
(Born **January 26, 1953**)
Secretary General of
NATO (2009-present)



Jose Maria Aznar
(born **Feb. 25, 1953**)
Prime Minister of Spain
(1996-2004)



Tony Blair
(Born **May 6, 1953**)
Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom of Great
Britain (1997-2007)



John Edwards
(Born **June 10, 1953**)
U.S. Senator
(D-NC, 1999-2005)



Elaine Chao
(Born **March 26, 1953**)
U.S. Secretary of Labor
(2001-2009)



Jean-Bertrand Aristide
(Born **July 15, 1953**)
President of Haiti (1991,
1994-1996, 2001-2004)



Xi Jinping
(born **June 15, 1953**)
President of the People's
Republic of China
(March 14, 2013-present)



Bashar al-Assad
(Born **Sept. 11, 1965**)
President of Syria
(July 17, 2000-present)



Dmitry Medvedev
(Born **Sept. 14, 1965**)
President of Russia
(2008-2012)



Fredrik Reinfeldt
(born **August 4, 1965**)
Prime Minister of Sweden
(2006-present)

2013: Year of the Snake

Pyramid Schemes & Political Turmoil



From Russia With Love?: Bilderberg Meetings participant Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left) shares a toast with President of Russia Vladimir Putin after they unveiled a plaque with hand imprint of Peter the Great during a tour of the Hermitage Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands on April 8, 2013. **Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held in Hertfordshire, England near London from June 6-9, 2013.**
(Photo: [AFP Photo](#))



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left) and President of Russia Vladimir Putin toast after they unveiled a plaque with hand imprint of Peter the Great during a tour of the Amsterdam Hermitage Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands on April 8, 2013. (REUTERS/Alexei Druzhinin/RIA Novosti/Pool)



Bilderberg Meetings participant Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte (left) chats with President of Russia Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on June 20, 2013. **Mark Rutte attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held in Hertfordshire, England near London from June 6-9, 2013.** (Photo: [Rijksoverheid](#))



FABRIZIO BENSCH/REUTERS

President of Russia Vladimir Putin (left) laughs with Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel (right) as they open Hanover Fair in Hannover, Germany on Monday, April 8, 2013. (Reuters)



President of Russia Vladimir Putin (left) laughs with Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel (right) as they open Hanover Fair in Hannover, Germany on Monday, April 8, 2013.



Prime Minister of Great Britain David Cameron greets President of Russia Vladimir Putin at 10 Downing Street, the office of the Prime Minister, in London on June 16, 2013. **David Cameron attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held in Hertfordshire, England near London from June 6-9, 2013.** (Getty Images)



In this handout image provided by Host Photo Agency, President of Russia Vladimir Putin (left) shakes hands with Bilderberg Meetings participant Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, at the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 5, 2013. **Christine Lagarde attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings that was held in Hertfordshire, England near London from June 6-9, 2013.** (Photo: Handout/Getty Images Europe)



Edward Snowden, COINTELPRO Extraordinaire?: A TV screen shows a news report of Edward Snowden, a former Central Intelligence Agency employee and former National Security Agency contractor who leaked top-secret documents about sweeping U.S. surveillance programs, at a shopping mall in Hong Kong, Communist China on Sunday, June 23, 2013. Edward Snowden, wanted by the United States for revealing two highly classified surveillance programs, has been allowed to leave for a “third country” (Moscow International Airport in Russia as of July 4, 2013) because a U.S. extradition request did not fully comply with Hong Kong law, the territory’s government announced on Sunday. Snowden traveled from Hawaii to Hong Kong on May 20, 2013, and Snowden arrived at Moscow International Airport on June 23, 2013. Snowden currently resides at the Moscow International Airport and sought political asylum in Russia on July 12, 2013. U.S. federal prosecutors charged Snowden with espionage and theft of government property on June 14, 2013. (Photo: Associated Press/Vincent Yu)



Barack Obama (left), President of the United States, meets with President of Russia Vladimir Putin (right) during a bilateral at the G8 Summit in Lough Erne, Northern Ireland on June 17, 2013. ([Official White House Photo by Pete Souza](#))



A column of Russian T-90 tanks rolls through Red Square in Moscow, Russia during a Victory Day parade on May 9, 2013.
(AFP Photo/Yuri Kadobnov)



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left) and President of Russia Vladimir Putin toast after they unveiled a plaque with hand imprint of Peter the Great during a tour of the Amsterdam Hermitage Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands on April 8, 2013.

Federal Reserve & Bank of Israel: A Faustian Bargain?



Left to right: Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Janet Yellen, former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Adolph Volker, former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Sir Alan Greenspan, and outgoing Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke listen to remarks during the Federal Reserve centennial commemoration at the Federal Reserve building in Washington, D.C. on December 16, 2013. (According to the Chinese calendar, 2013 is known as Year of the Snake.) The Federal Reserve marked its 100th anniversary with a commemoration ceremony featuring the past, outgoing, and incoming chairmen of the Federal Reserve. **Janet Yellen, Paul Adolph Volcker, and Sir Alan Greenspan are members of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City.** (Photo by Mark Wilson/Getty Images)



Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers (left), former Governor of the Bank of Israel Stanley Fischer (2nd left), Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke (2nd right), and IMF Research Department Director Olivier Blanchard participate in an economic forum on "Policy Responses to Crises" at the International Monetary Fund headquarters in Washington, D.C. on **November 8, 2013**. The forum was part of the fourteenth Jacques Polak Annual Research Conference. Stanley Fischer was appointed Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve in January 2014. Ben Bernanke finishes his term as Chairman of the Federal Reserve at the end of January 2014. Lawrence Summers, Stanley Fischer, and Ben Bernanke have attended the Bilderberg Meetings in the past. (Photo: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images North America)



Trilateral Commission Founder David Rockefeller (front row center) appears with (front row from left) Joseph S. Nye, Jr., Jean-Claude Trichet (former President of the European Central Bank), and Minoru Makihara, and (back row) Paul A. Volcker (former Chairman of the Federal Reserve) and Michael Fuchs at the Trilateral Commission's 40th Anniversary meeting in Berlin, Germany on March 16, 2013. (Photo: <http://www.trilateral.org/>)



Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), speaks at the Economic Club of New York in New York City on April 10, 2013. Paul Volcker (former Chairman of the Federal Reserve), Roger W. Ferguson Jr. (former Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve), William C. Dudley (President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York), John P. Lipsky (former First Deputy Managing Director of IMF), Andrew Tisch, Marie-Josée Kravis, and Peter B. Henry are seen in attendance. (Photo: [Economic Club of New York](#))



Demonstrators, angered by the loss of their bank savings deposit, levy protest outside the Cypriot parliament in March 2013.



Mark J. Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, addresses The Economic Club of New York at a lunch in New York City on December 9, 2013. (Photo: [Economic Club of New York](#))



Christine Lagarde (left), Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), greets former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Economic Club of New York in New York City on April 10, 2013. **Lagarde and Kissinger attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held at The Grove hotel in Watford, England from June 6-9, 2013.** (Photo: [Economic Club of New York](#))



Jacob A. Frenkel (left), former Governor of the Bank of Israel (Israel's central bank), greets former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (right) at the Economic Club of New York in New York City on April 10, 2013. **Frenkel and Kissinger are members of the Trilateral Commission in April 2013.** (Photo: [Economic Club of New York](#))



(From left to right) Former Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister of Israel Yair Lapid and outgoing Bank of Israel Governor Stanley Fischer appear at a press conference in the Knesset in Jerusalem, Israel on June 24, 2013. Stanley Fischer is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private organization in New York City; Jacob Frenkel is a member of the Trilateral Commission. **Jacob A. Frenkel, who was nominated to serve as the Governor of the Bank of Israel in 2013, withdrew his nomination due to a shoplifting allegation.** (Photo Credit: Miriam Alster/Flash90)
<http://www.timesofisrael.com/frenkel-says-pm-insisted-he-head-central-bank/>



Stanley Fischer, the Governor of the Bank of Israel, talks to media during a press conference at the Bank of Israel in Jerusalem, Israel on January 30, 2013. Stanley Fischer, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City, surprised Israel on January 29 by announcing that he was retiring from the central bank on June 30, 2013. (EPA/ABIR SULTAN)

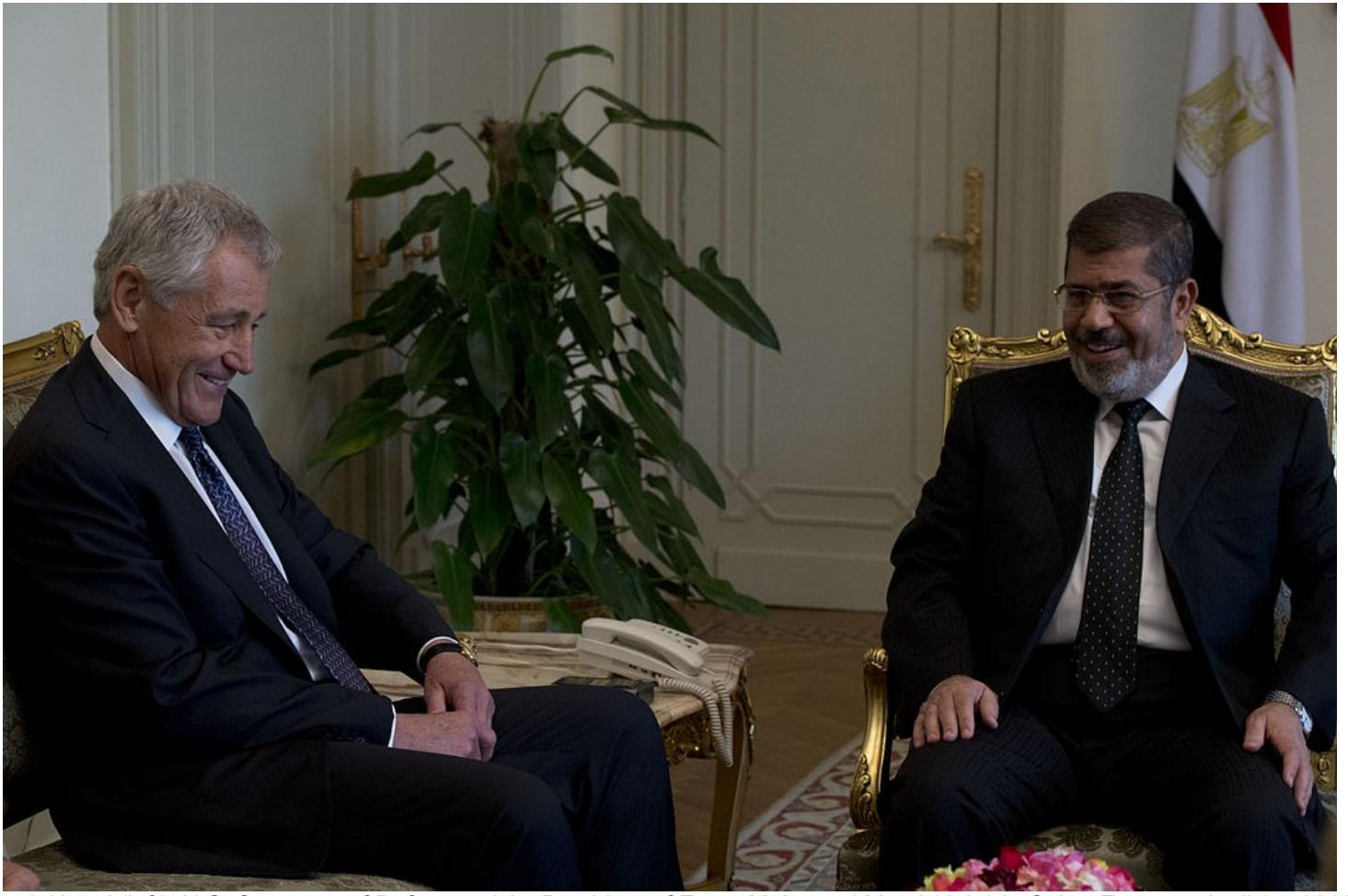
Egyptian Pyramid Scheme: The Cairo Coup d'Etat (July 3, 2013)



Skull & Bones greets Muslim Brotherhood: United States Secretary of State John Kerry (left) meets with President of Egypt Mohammed Morsi in Cairo, Egypt on **March 3, 2013**. Mohammed Morsi is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood; John Kerry is a member of Skull & Bones, a secret society at Yale University, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City. **Mohammed Morsi was removed from office in a military coup d'etat on July 3, 2013.** ([U.S. State Department photo](#)/ Public Domain)



Egyptians protest against President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt on June 30, 2013. Millions of people protested in an attempt to remove President Mohamed Morsi from office. (UPI/Ahmed Jomaa)



Chuck Hagel (left), U.S. Secretary of Defense, visits President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi (right) in Cairo, Egypt on April 24, 2013.
Chuck Hagel is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City.

(Photo: U.S. Department of Defense/Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo)



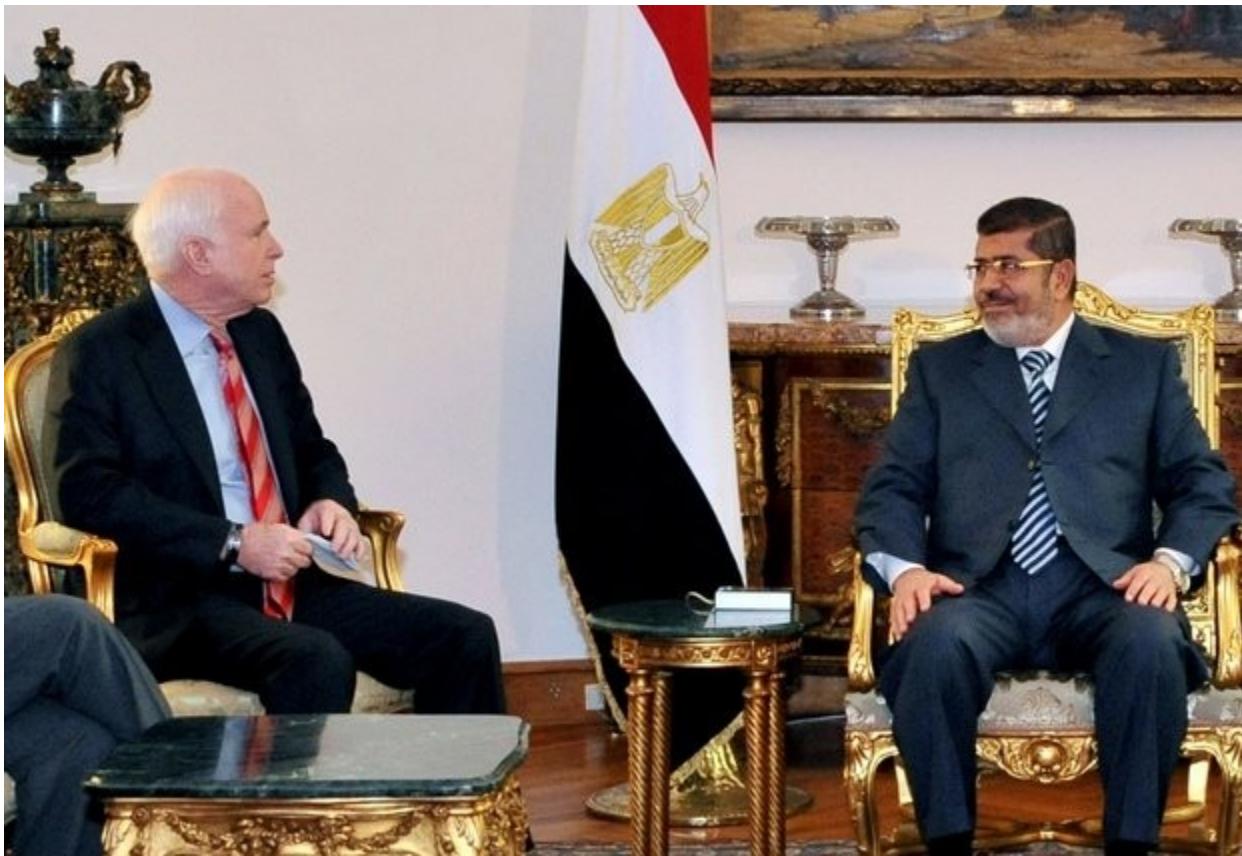
Protesters ransack the Muslim Brotherhood headquarters in the Muqatam district in Cairo, Monday, July 1, 2013.
(Photo: Associated Press)



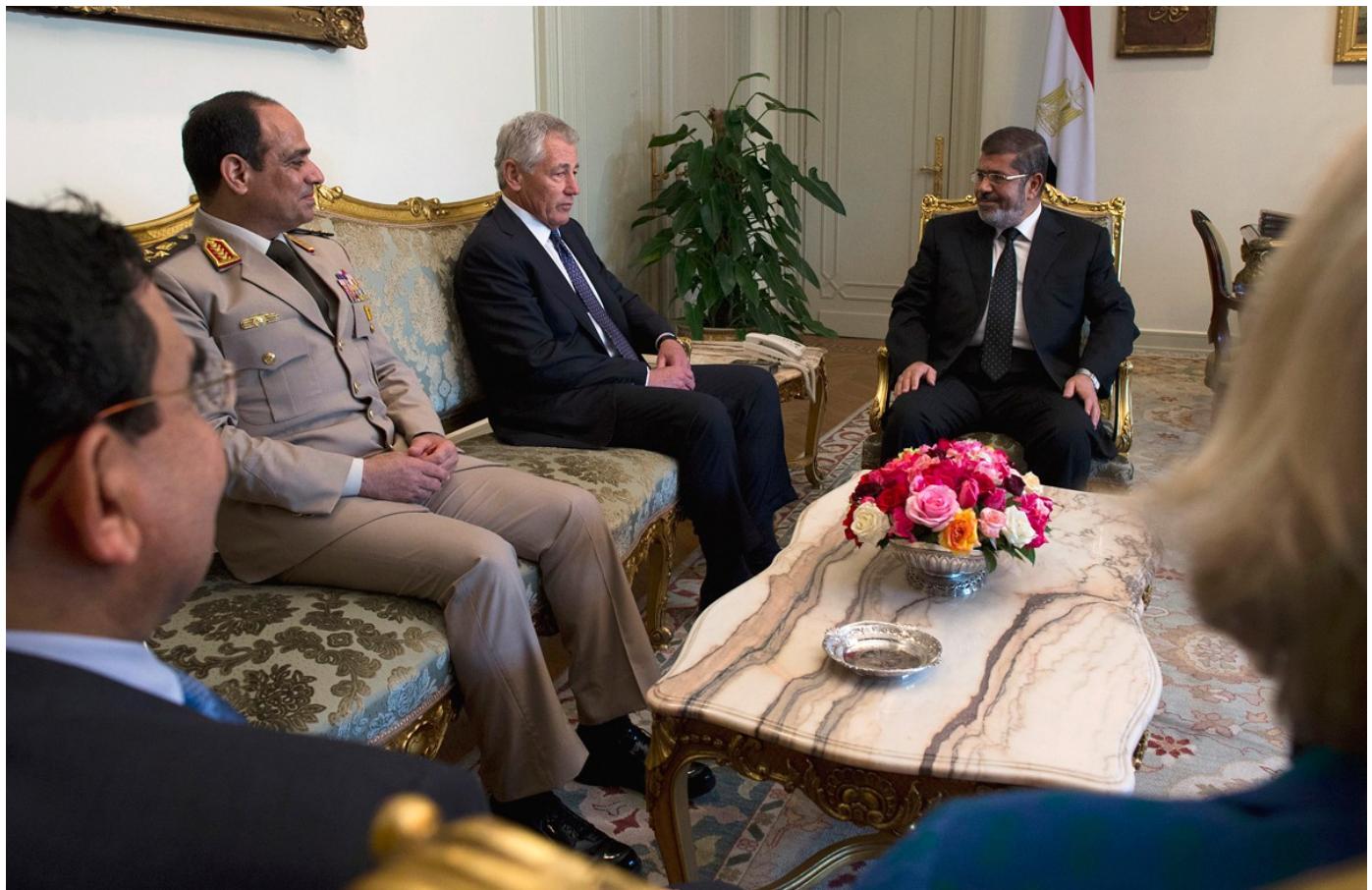
Army soldiers stand guard in front of protesters who are against Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi near the Republican Guard headquarters in Cairo, Egypt on July 3, 2013. A meeting was held between the head of the Egyptian armed forces, liberal opposition leaders and senior Muslim and Christian clerics on July 3, 2013. (Reuters/Amr Abdallah Dalsh)



Opponents of Egypt's Islamist President Mohammed Morsi wave national flags during a protest outside the presidential palace in Cairo, Egypt on Wednesday, July 3, 2013. The deadline on the military's ultimatum to President Mohammed Morsi had expired, with 48 hours passing since the time it was issued. **President of Egypt Mohammed Morsi was removed from office on July 3, 2013.** (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)



United States Senator John McCain (left) meets with President of Egypt Mohammed Morsi at the Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt on January 16, 2013. John McCain is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. (AP Photo)



Chuck Hagel (center), U.S. Secretary of Defense, speaks with General Abdul Fatah Khalil Al-Sisi (left), the Defense Minister of Egypt and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Egypt, and President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi (right) in Cairo, Egypt on April 24, 2013. Chuck Hagel is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense/Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo)



Chuck Hagel (center), U.S. Secretary of Defense, arrives with General Abdul Fatah Khalil Al-Sisi (second from right), the Defense Minister of Egypt and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Egypt, in Cairo, Egypt on April 24, 2013 to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the tomb of late president Anwar al-Sadat. (Photo: U.S. Department of Defense/Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo)



In this image released by the office of the Egyptian Presidency, Mohammed Morsi, left, meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, during the BRICS 2013 Summit in Durban, South Africa on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. Heads of State of BRICS nations met in Durban for the two-day summit. (AP Photo/Egyptian Presidency)

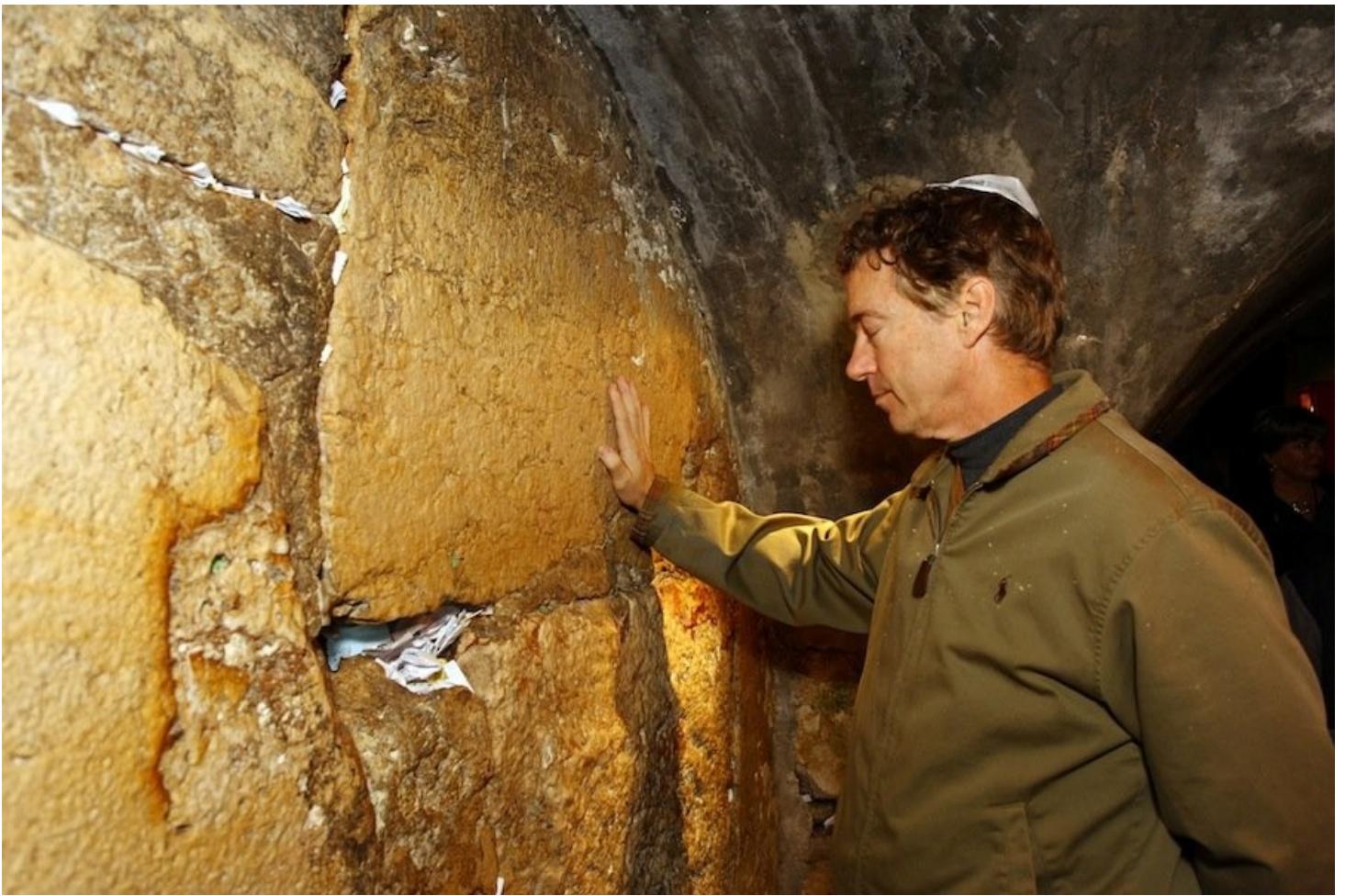
Syrian Civil War, State of Israel, & “Snake Oil” in the Middle East



United States Senator Rand Paul (right, Republican-Kentucky), the son of former U.S. Congressman Ron Paul, shakes hands with Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu (a member of the Likud Party) in Jerusalem, Israel on January 8, 2013.



United States Senator Rand Paul (left) meets with King Abdullah of Jordan in Amman, Jordan on January 8, 2013.



United States Senator Rand Paul paid a visit to the Wailing Wall (also known as Western Wall) in Jerusalem on Sunday night January 6, 2013. (Photo: <http://www.businessinsider.com/rand-paul-israel-western-wall-photos-2013-1>)



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (center) poses with members of the Israeli government before a meeting in Jerusalem, Israel on May 23, 2013. They are, from left, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon; Minister of International Relations, Strategic Affairs and Intelligence Yuval Steinitz; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni. ([U.S. State Department Photo/Public Domain](#))



U.S. President Barack Obama toasts with Israel's President Shimon Peres after Obama was presented with the Presidential Medal of Distinction, Israel's highest civilian honor, during an official state dinner in Jerusalem, March 21, 2013. (REUTERS/Jason Reed)



United States Senator Rand Paul (center) appears with an orthodox Jewish rabbi (left) at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem on Sunday, January 6, 2013.



United States Secretary of State John Kerry (left) meets with Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu before their working dinner in Jerusalem, Israel on March 23, 2013. ([State Department photo/Public Domain](#))



President of Russia Vladimir Putin (right) shakes hands with Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting at the Bocharov Ruchei residence in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. Putin hosted Netanyahu for talks focusing on the civil war in Syria, amid concerns that Moscow could soon provide the Syrian government with advanced missiles. Israel celebrated its 65th year of independence on May 14, 2013. ([AP Photo/ Maxim Shipenkov](#))



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands amid a news conference in Jerusalem on December 5, 2013. (U.S. State Department photo/ Public Domain)



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry delivers remarks at the Brookings Institution's 10th annual Saban Forum, 'Power Shifts: U.S.-Israel Relations in a Dynamic Middle East,' in Washington, D.C., on December 7, 2013. (U.S. State Department photo/ Public Domain)



U.S. President Barack Obama visits Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel and honors the victims of the Holocaust on Friday, March 22, 2013. Standing in the rear are Israel's President Shimon Peres (2nd left) and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (2nd right).



A man stands near a building that was hit by a mortar shell in Damascus, Syria on February 6, 2013 during the ongoing Syrian Civil War. ([Reuters](#))



This citizen journalism image taken on Sunday, April 7, 2013 provided by Aleppo Media Center AMC which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows Syrian citizens searching for bodies on the rubble of damaged buildings that were attacked by Syrian forces airstrikes, at al-Ansari neighborhood, in Aleppo, Syria. More than 70,000 people have died since Syria's crisis erupted in March 2011. The Syria-based Violations Documentation Center says nearly 9,000 government troops have been killed in two years of fighting between President Bashar Assad's forces and rebels trying to topple him. (AP Photo/Aleppo Media Center AMC)



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (left), accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul (2nd left) meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, Russia on May 7, 2013. The Obama administration attempted to wage war against Syria in late August 2013 following a chemical weapons attack in Syria, only to agree to a diplomatic proposal in which Syria would relinquish its chemical weapons. The British Parliament voted against a military expedition into Syria on August 29, 2013 by a margin of 285 against and 272 in favor. ([U.S. State Department photo/Public Domain](#))



An anti-government protester holds Turkey's national flag with a portrait of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, on it during a demonstration in Ankara, Turkey on June 2, 2013. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in Turkey's four biggest cities, including Istanbul, on Sunday and clashed with riot police firing tear gas in the third day of the fiercest anti-government protests in years. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan blamed the main secular opposition party for inciting the crowds, whom he called "a few looters", and said the protests were aimed at depriving his ruling AK Party of votes as elections begin next year. (REUTERS/Umit Bektas)



Young Turks clash with security forces in Ankara, Turkey on Sunday, June 2, 2013. Protests in Istanbul and several other Turkish cities appear to have subsided, after days of fierce clashes following a police crackdown on a peaceful gathering. The demonstrations grew out of anger over a violent police crackdown of a peaceful environmental protest at Istanbul's Taksim Square and spread to other Turkish cities. (AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (4th right), along with U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta (5th right) and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan James B. Cunningham, hosts a working dinner for Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on January 10, 2013. James B. Cunningham is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private organization in New York City. (Photo: [U.S. Department of State](#))



U.S. President Barack Obama (right) shakes hands with his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai after a joint press conference in the East Room at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on January 11, 2013. Obama and Karzai said that American forces would hand the lead in the fight against the Taliban to Afghan forces in the next few months. (Photo: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images)



Smoke is seen above people gathering outside a mosque on the site of a powerful explosion in Tripoli, Lebanon on Friday, August 23, 2013. Two bombings killed dozens of people. The first blast occurred near a mosque led by a Sunni sheikh known for his links to Syrian rebels, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said. The second occurred minutes later near another mosque, close to the residence of acting Prime Minister Najib Mikati. (AFP/Getty Images)



Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad stand beside a dead Free Syrian Army fighter in a damaged building in Base 80 area of Aleppo, Syria on November 10, 2013. Syrian forces backed by Lebanese Hezbollah militants recaptured an army base in northern Syria from rebels on Sunday, the third day of heavy fighting for the strategic military target which has changed hands three times since Friday. State media and activists said President Bashar al-Assad's forces were in full control of the 80th Brigade base, which lies just a few hundred metres (yards) north of Aleppo airport on the eastern edge of the disputed city. (REUTERS/George Ourfalian)



Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah (second right) speaks to the crowd in a rare public appearance during Ashura, that marks the death of Shiite Islam's Imam Hussein, in the suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon on Thursday, **November 14, 2013**. Nasrallah said his fighters will continue to take part in the battles of Syria along with government forces as long as it is needed. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein)



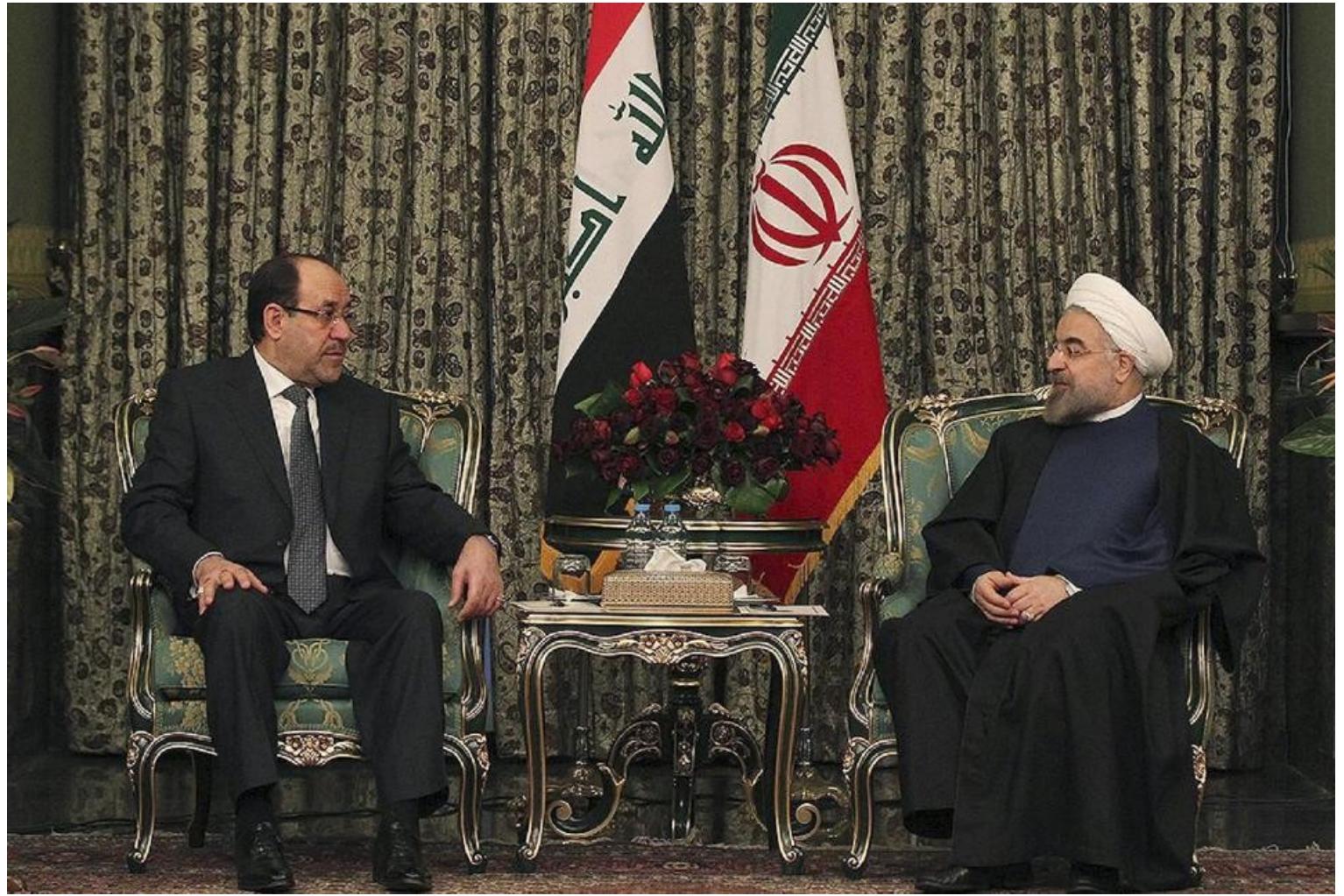
A bombing incident near the Iranian Embassy occurred in Beirut, Lebanon on **November 19, 2013**. At least 23 people were killed and 146 people were injured in that bombing incident.



President of Iran Hassan Rouhani (left) meets with President of Russia Vladimir Putin on September 13, 2013
(Russian Presidential Press and Information Office)



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (center) appears with his fellow P5+1 foreign ministers, including British Foreign Secretary William Hague (2nd left, at table), French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius (4th right, at table), and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (3rd right, at table) -- as well as European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton (2nd right) and Foreign Minister of Iran (Persia) Javad Zarif, far right -- at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on November 24, 2013, after the group concluded negotiations about Iran's nuclear capabilities. ([U.S. State Department photo/Public Domain](#))



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President of Iran Hassan Rouhani, right, meets with Prime Minister of Iraq Nouri al-Maliki in Tehran, Iran on Thursday, December 5, 2013.
(AP Photo/Iranian Presidency Office, Mohammad Berno)



President of Russia Vladimir Putin (right) shakes hands with Prime Minister of Turkey Tayyip Erdogan in Strelna near St. Petersburg, Russia on November 22, 2013. (Photo: Reuters)

Boston Marathon Bombings Incident (April 15, 2013)



The 2013 Boston Marathon Bombings Incident: An unidentified man is seen walking atop a building rooftop (red circle) as an explosion occurs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon in downtown Boston on April 15, 2013.



Medical workers aid injured people at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon following an explosion in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. on Monday, April 15, 2013. Two explosions occurred at the marathon finish line; three people were killed and 183 people were injured. An electrical fire occurred at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston during the afternoon of April 15, 2003. ([AP Photo/Charles Krupa](#))



Boston Marathon Bombing: Prior Knowledge? Prior Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, a 19-year-old Russian-born American Muslim college student of Chechen descent and a suspected “patsy”, was arrested by the Boston police on the night of April 19, 2013 after he was wounded in a shootout with the Boston police; 26-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s older brother, was killed on April 19, 2013 during a shootout with the Boston police. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had prior knowledge of Tamerlan Tsarnaev and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s trip to Russia in 2012; the FBI interviewed Tamerlan Tsarnaev in 2011.



Civilians gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in the east Baghdad neighborhood of Kamaliya, Iraq on Monday, April 15, 2013. A series of attacks across, Iraq many involving car bombs, has killed and wounded dozens of people, police said less than a week before Iraqis in much of the country are scheduled to vote in the country's first elections since the 2011 American troop withdrawal. A series of bomb explosions across Iraq on Monday April 15, 2013 killed at least 42 people and wounded more than 257 others, according to Iraqi police. (AP Photo/ Khalid Mohammed)



In this Instagram photo provided by Andy Bartee, a plume of smoke rises from a fertilizer plant fire in West, Texas, near Waco, on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. An explosion at a fertilizer plant near Waco Wednesday night injured dozens of people and sent flames shooting high into the night sky, leaving the factory a smoldering ruin and causing major damage to surrounding buildings. An estimated 15 people were reported dead and an estimated 160 people were injured. (AP Photo/ Andy Bartee)

Washington Navy Yard Shooting Incident (September 16, 2013)



Emergency vehicles and law enforcement personnel respond to a shooting incident inside the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. on September 16, 2013. At least 13 people, including the alleged shooter, were killed and other people were injured in the shooting spree at the Washington Navy Yard. (Alex Wong/Getty Images)



Lone gunman or patsy?: Aaron Alexis, a 34-year-old former U.S. Navy reservist from Texas and a civilian Navy contractor who possessed security clearance, was accused of killing 12 people with a shotgun inside the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. on September 16, 2013 until he was killed by police during the massacre. Was the Washington Navy Yard shooting incident a covert operation and a psychological operation (i.e. mind control) similar to the Reichstag Fire in Berlin, Germany in 1933? Was the Washington Navy Yard shooting incident just another government "drill" similar to the 7/7 Bombing Incident (July 7, 2005) in London?

Kenya Shopping Mall Shooting Incident (September 21, 2013)



A Kenyan soldier stands outside Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2013 during the shooting incident.



English-speaking Somalian Al-Shabaab terrorists attack Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya on September 21, 2013. The Somalian terrorists threw grenades and fired their AK-47 rifles, killing at least 68 people and injuring more than 175 people.

United States Capitol Shooting Incident (October 3, 2013)



Miriam Carey, a 34-year-old mother and a dental hygienist from Stamford, Connecticut, was fatally shot by Capitol Police outside the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. on **October 3, 2013**. Miriam Carey allegedly tried to drive through a White House security checkpoint in her Infiniti automobile, where she struck a police officer with her car; she was chased by the Secret Service to the United States Capitol, where she was killed. The U.S. Capitol was placed on a lockdown during the incident. Miriam Carey's one-year-old daughter was found in the car. A government shutdown of the U.S. federal government began on **October 1, 2013**, after the U.S. Congress continued to extend its debate on providing money for the Affordable Health Care for America Act, a controversial government health care program informally known as "Obamacare". The first day that Americans are "required" to obtain Obamacare began on **October 1, 2013**. Was the United States Capitol shooting incident just another government "drill" similar to the 7/7 Bombing Incident (July 7, 2005) in London? (Alhurra Television via AFP/Getty Images)



Miriam Carey: Reckless driver or political pawn?

The North Korea-Nuclear Weapon Controversy



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un (center) visits a long-range artillery sub-unit of the Korean People's Army Unit 641, whose mission is to strike Baengnyeong Island of South Korea in the western sector of the front line on March 11, 2013 in this picture released by the North Korea's official KCNA news agency in Pyongyang, North Korea on March 12, 2013. South Korea and American forces are conducting large-scale military drills, while North Korea is also gearing up for a massive military exercise. North Korea has accused America of using the military drills in South Korea as a launch pad for a nuclear war and has said to scrap the Korean War armistice. (Photo: REUTERS/KCNA)

“Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.” – Mao Tse-tung



Kim Jong-Un (center, holding a binocular), the communist ruler of North Korea, watches a flight exercise and a paratrooping drill of the Air and Anti-Air Force and Large Combined Unit 630 of the Korean People's Army in an undated photo. **The United Nations, on behalf of America and Communist China, has proposed to impose additional sanctions on North Korea in early March 2013 following North Korea's nuclear weapons tests that was conducted on February 12, 2013. The North Korean communist regime has responded to the proposed sanctions by threatening to terminate the 1953 armistice effectively on March 11, 2013 and engage in preemptive nuclear warfare.** (Photo: REUTERS/KCNA)



Former professional basketball player (and Chicago Bulls rebounder) Dennis Rodman (front right) applauds as he sits next to North Korea's leader Kim Jong-Un (front left) at a basketball game in Pyongyang, North Korea on February 28, 2013. (Photo: AFP/VICE Media/Jason Mojica)



South Korean President Park Geun-Hye (left) and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry shake hands before their talks at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on April 12, 2013. **John Kerry is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City and a member of Skull & Bones secret society at Yale University; John Kerry attended the 2012 Bilderberg Meetings held in Chantilly, Virginia, U.S.A. from 31 May-3 June 2012.** (REUTERS/Kim Jae-Hwan/Pool)

<http://news.yahoo.com/north-korea-likely-launch-nuclear-missiles-u-spy-010606895.html>



Park Geun-Hye, the new President of South Korea and daughter of former President of South Korea Gen. Park Chung-hee, salutes during her inauguration ceremony in front of the National Assembly building in Seoul, South Korea on February 25, 2013. (Park Jin-Hee/Getty Images)



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen (left) visits South Korea's President Park Geun-hye, the daughter of the late President Gen. Park Chung-hee, in Seoul, Republic of Korea (South Korea) on April 12, 2013. Anders Fogh Rasmussen is the first NATO Secretary General ever to visit the Republic of Korea. (Photo: [NATO](#))



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen (center) visits the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at Panmunjom, Korea on April 12, 2013. Anders Fogh Rasmussen attended the Bilderberg Meetings in 2000 and 2003. (Photo: [NATO](#))

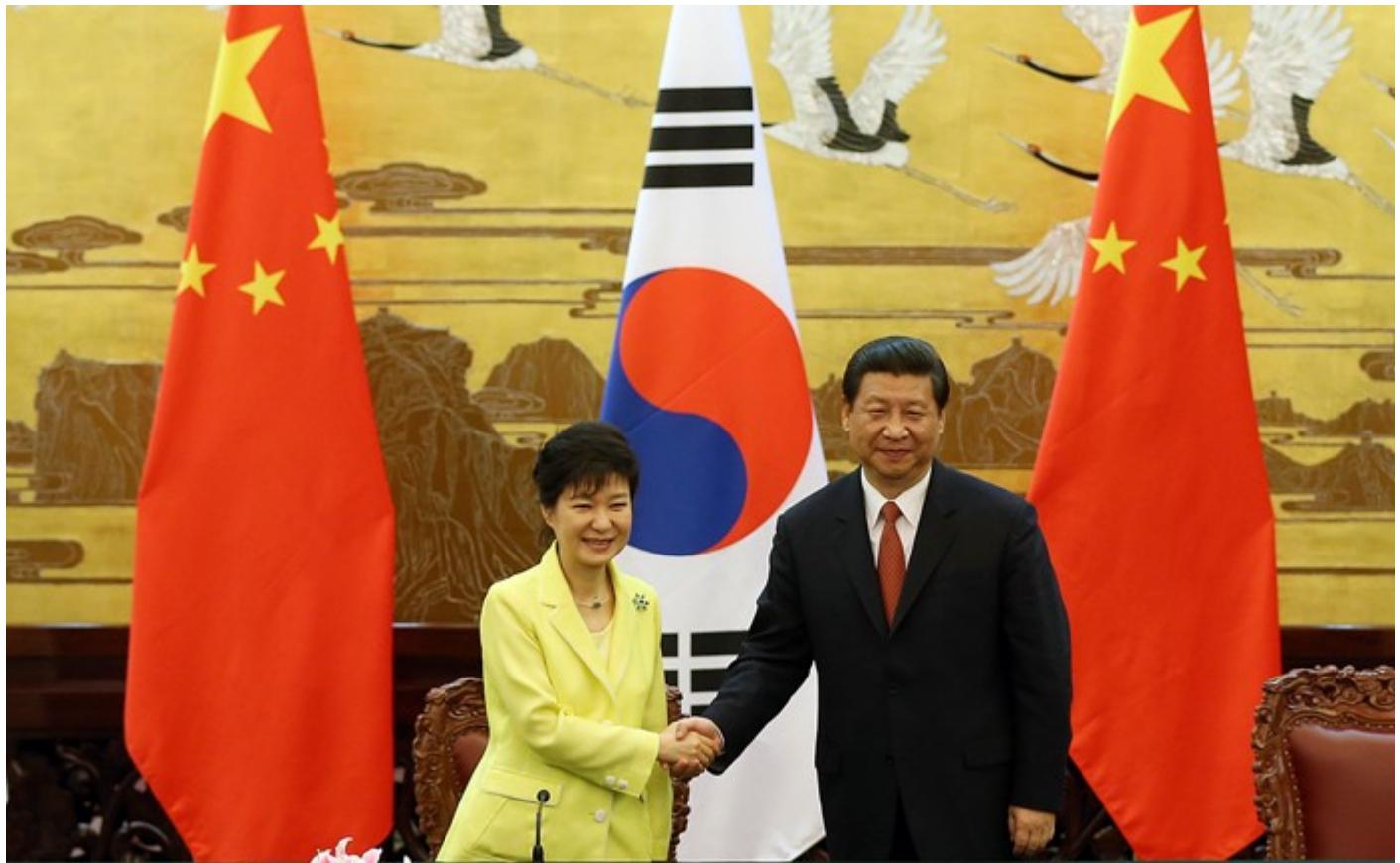


United States President Barack Obama (right) shakes hands with President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (left) during a news conference at the East Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on May 7, 2013.

(Photo: Alex Wong/Getty Images North America)



President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (left) shakes hands with President of Russia Vladimir Putin at the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 6, 2013. (Photo: Presidential Press and Information Office/Kremlin)



President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (left) and President of Communist China Xi Jinping shake hands after the signing ceremony for MOUs on boosting bilateral cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Communist China on June 27, 2013. (Photo: Cheong Wa Dae).



President of South Korea Park Geun-Hye (left) and Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain raise a toast at a State Banquet at Buckingham Palace in London on November 5, 2013. (AFP/Pool/Neil Hall)



A view is seen of a parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and a mass rally in Pyongyang September 9, 2013 in celebration of the 65th anniversary of North Korea in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency on Monday. (REUTERS/KCNA)



North Korean troops march during a military parade at Kim Il Sung Square to mark the 65th anniversary of the country's founding in Pyongyang, North Korea, Monday, Sept. 9, 2013. (AP Photo/Jon Chol Jin)



North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un (center) attends a parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and a mass rally in Pyongyang September 9, 2013 in celebration of the 65th anniversary of North Korea in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency on Monday. (REUTERS/KCNA)



North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un (center) attends a parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and a mass rally in Pyongyang September 9, 2013 in celebration of the 65th anniversary of North Korea in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency on Monday. (REUTERS/KCNA)

The Arrest and Execution of Kim Jong Un's Uncle Jang Song Thaek



Jang Song Thaek, center, uncle of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, was detained during an emergency meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang, North Korea on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Jang Song Thaek was executed on December 12, 2013 for treason and other crimes.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, second left, walks with his uncle Jang Song Thaek, right; his chief secretary, Kim Chang Son, second from right, and Vice Marshal Choe Ryong Hae, far left, as he tours the newly opened Fatherland Liberation War Museum during events marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Korean War in Pyongyang, North Korea on July 27, 2013. North Korea announced Monday, Dec. 9, 2013, it had sacked leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, Jang Song Thaek, long considered the country's No. 2 power, saying corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and generally leading a "dissolute and depraved life" had caused Pyongyang's highest-profile fall from grace since Kim took power two years ago. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

North Korea says Jang Song Thaek, uncle of leader Kim Jong Un, executed

December 12, 2013

SEOUL (Reuters) – North Korea said on Friday Jang Song Thaek, the uncle of leader Kim Jong Un and previously considered the second most powerful man in the secretive state, has been executed after a special military tribunal found him **guilty of treason**. "The accused Jang brought together undesirable forces and formed a faction as the boss of a modern day factional group for a long time and thus committed such hideous crime as attempting to overthrow the state," the North's official KCNA news agency said. The official Rodong Sinmun newspaper on Friday carried a photograph of Jang in handcuffs and being held by uniformed guards as he stood trial. Earlier this week North Korea stripped Jang of all posts and expelled him from the ruling Workers' Party, accusing him of criminal acts including mismanagement of the state financial system, womanizing and alcohol abuse." "From long ago, Jang had a dirty political ambition. He dared not raise his head when Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were alive," KCNA said, referring to leader Kim's grandfather and father, who were previous rulers of the dynastic state. "He began revealing his true colors, thinking that it was just the time for him to realize his wild ambition in the period of historic turn when the generation of the revolution was replaced." The execution caps a spectacular downfall of the husband of leader Kim's aunt. Jang had previously suffered purges but fought his way back to the power circle to hold influential positions in the ruling party and the military.

(Reporting by Jack Kim; editing by Andrew Roche and Jim Loney)

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/north-korea-says-jang-song-thaek-uncle-leader-215623738.html>



South Korean President Park Geun-hye shakes hands with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde (left) before their meeting at the Blue House presidential palace in Seoul, South Korea on December 4, 2013. (REUTERS/Lee Jin-man/Pool)



President of South Korea Park Geun-hye (right) shakes hands with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden before their meeting at the Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on December 6, 2013. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon. Pool)

Furious over sanctions, North Korea vows to nuke United States

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

March 7, 2013

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea vowed on Thursday to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the United States, amplifying its threatening rhetoric hours ahead of a vote by U.N. diplomats on whether to level new sanctions against Pyongyang for its recent nuclear test.

An unidentified spokesman for Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry said the North will exercise its right for "a preemptive nuclear attack to destroy the strongholds of the aggressors" because Washington is pushing to start a nuclear war against the North.

Although North Korea boasts of nuclear bombs and pre-emptive strikes, it is not thought to have mastered the ability to produce a warhead small enough to put on a missile capable of reaching the U.S. It is believed to have enough nuclear fuel, however, for several crude nuclear devices.

Such inflammatory rhetoric is common from North Korea, and especially so in recent days. North Korea is angry over the possible sanctions and over upcoming U.S.-South Korean military drills. At a mass rally in Pyongyang on Thursday, tens of thousands of North Koreans protested the U.S.-South Korean war drills and sanctions.

"Now our enemies are trying to make additional sanctions against us, but we can never accept this," said Ri Kum Il, a Pyongyang citizen at the rally. "We will make a preemptive nuclear attack against our enemies wherever they are and turn their strongholds into a sea of flames."

The U.N. Security Council is set to impose a fourth round of sanctions against Pyongyang in a fresh attempt to rein in its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current council president, said the council would vote on the draft sanctions resolution Thursday morning.

The resolution was drafted by the United States and China, North Korea's closest ally. The council's agreement to put the resolution to a vote just 48 hours later signaled that it would almost certainly have the support of all 15 council members.

The statement by the North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman was carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

It accused the U.S. of leading efforts to slap sanctions on North Korea. The statement said the new sanctions would only advance the timing for North Korea to fulfill previous vows to take "powerful second and third countermeasures" against its enemies. It hasn't elaborated on those measures.

The statement said North Korea "strongly warns the U.N. Security Council not to make another big blunder like the one in the past when it earned the inveterate grudge of the Korean nation by acting as a war servant for the U.S. in 1950."

North Korea demanded the U.N. Security Council immediately dismantle the American-led U.N. Command that's based in Seoul and move to end the state of war that exists on the Korean Peninsula, which continues six decades after fighting stopped because an armistice, not a peace treaty, ended the war.

In anticipation of the resolution's adoption, North Korea earlier in the week threatened to cancel the 1953 cease-fire that ended the Korean War.

North Korean threats have become more common as tensions have escalated following a rocket launch by Pyongyang in December and its third nuclear test on Feb. 12. Both acts defied three Security Council resolutions that bar North Korea from testing or using nuclear or ballistic missile technology and from importing or exporting material for these programs.

U.S. U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice said the proposed resolution, to be voted on at 10 a.m. EST (1500 GMT), would impose some of the strongest sanctions ever ordered by the United Nations.

The final version of the draft resolution, released Wednesday, identified three individuals, one corporation and one organization that would be added to the U.N. sanctions list if the measure is approved.

The targets include top officials at a company that is the country's primary arms dealer and main exporter of ballistic missile-related equipment, and a national organization responsible for research and development of missiles and probably nuclear weapons.

The success of a new round of sanctions could depend on enforcement by China, where most of the companies and banks that North Korea is believed to work with are based.

The United States and other nations worry that North Korea's third nuclear test pushed it closer to its goal of gaining nuclear missiles that can reach the U.S. The international community has condemned the regime's nuclear and missile efforts as threats to regional security and a drain on the resources that could go to North Korea's largely destitute people.

The draft resolution condemns the latest nuclear test "in the strongest terms" for violating and flagrantly disregarding council resolutions, bans further [ballistic missile](#) launches, nuclear tests "or any other provocation," and demands that North Korea return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It also condemns all of North Korea's ongoing nuclear activities, including its uranium enrichment.

But the proposed resolution stresses the council's commitment "to a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution" and urged a resumption of six-party talks with the aim of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula "in a peaceful manner."

The proposed resolution would make it significantly harder for North Korea to move around the funds it needs to carry out its illicit programs and strengthen existing sanctions and the inspection of suspect cargo bound to and from the country. It would also ban countries from exporting specific luxury goods to the North, including yachts, luxury automobiles, racing cars, and jewelry with semi-precious and precious stones and precious metals.

According to the draft, all countries would now be required to freeze financial transactions or services that could contribute to North Korea's nuclear or missile programs.

To get around financial sanctions, North Koreans have been carrying around large suitcases filled with cash to move illicit funds. The draft resolution expresses concern that these bulk cash transfers may be used to evade sanctions. It clarifies that the freeze on financial transactions and services that could violate sanctions applies to all cash transfers as well as the cash couriers.

The proposed resolution also bans all countries from providing public financial support for trade deals, such as granting export credits, guarantees or insurance, if the assistance could contribute to the North's nuclear or missile programs.

It includes what a senior diplomat called unprecedented new travel sanctions that would require countries to expel agents working for sanctioned North Korean companies.

The draft also requires states to inspect suspect cargo on their territory and prevent any vessel that refuses an inspection from entering their ports. And a new aviation measure calls on states to deny aircraft permission to take off, land or fly over their territory if illicit cargo is suspected to be aboard.

Lederer reported from the United Nations. Foster Klug in Seoul contributed to this report.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/furious-over-sanctions-nkorea-vows-nuke-us-092213643.html>

Changing of the Guards: The House of Orange-Nassau & The Vatican



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left) passes the Act of Abdication to her son King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands (center) to sign as his wife Queen Maxima of the Netherlands (right) looks on during the abdication ceremony in the Moseszaal at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam, Netherlands on April 30, 2013. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands abdicates the throne after a 33 year reign and transfers the throne to her son King Willem-Alexander. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, a longtime member of the Bilderberg Group, announced her abdication on January 28, 2013. (Photo by Bart Maat - Pool/Getty Images)



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left), the outgoing Queen of the Netherlands, and her son King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands hold hands at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam, Netherlands on April 30, 2013. (AP Photo/Bart Maat, pool)



Pope Benedict XVI (formerly Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger) formally abdicated on February 28, 2013. Pope Benedict XVI served as the head of the Roman Catholic Church from April 19, 2005 to February 28, 2013.



Pope Francis (formerly born Jorge Mario Bergoglio), a Jesuit priest, leaves the Sistine Chapel after being elected pope and shortly before appearing for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on March 13, 2013. Pope Francis served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina from 1998 to 2013. (CNS/L'Osservatore Romano)



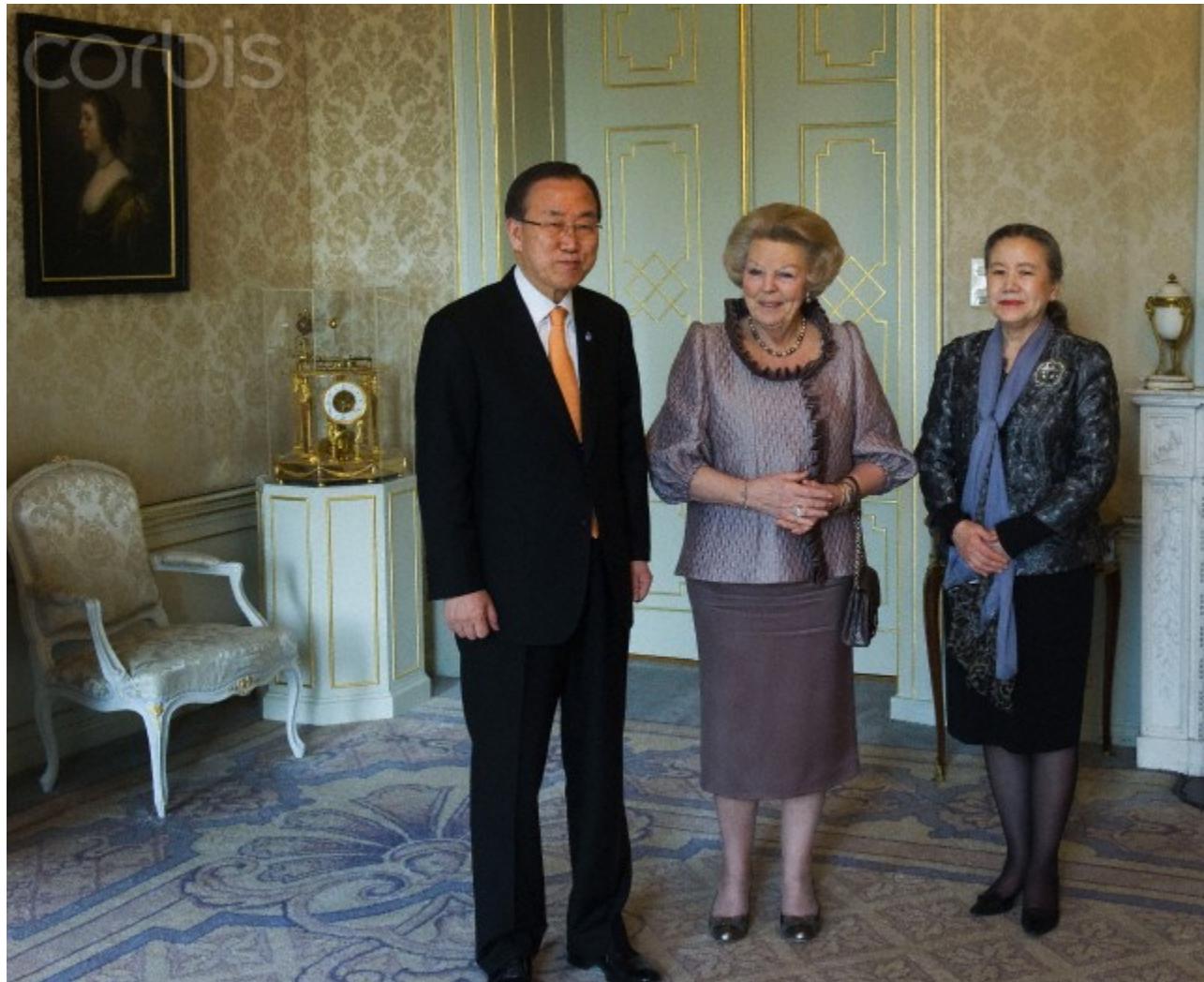
Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner (left) greets Pope Francis after his inauguration Mass at the Vatican on March 19, 2013. (Reuters)



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (center) stands between Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) and his wife Emine Erdogan (right) as they pose for a picture at royal palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, Netherlands on March 21, 2013. (REUTERS/Peter Dejong/Pool)



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (left) meets with Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam (right) in Singapore on January 24, 2013.



Ban Ki-moon (left), Secretary-General of the United Nations, and his wife Yoo Soon-taek (right) meet with Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands during the official photo session at the Royal Palace Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, Netherlands on April 7, 2013. (REUTERS/Toussaint Kluiters/United Photos)

The Inauguration of a New World Order?



President Barack Obama (left) takes the oath of office from U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts (right) at the ceremonial swearing-in in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. on January 21, 2013. (AP Photo/Scott Andrews)



Outgoing U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (left) speaks with Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, after delivering a speech on American leadership at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. on January 31, 2013. (Photo: [U.S. Department of State](#))



U.S. President Barack Obama (center) speaks during a news conference with chief counterterrorism adviser John Brennan (right) and former U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (left, R-Nebraska) in the East Room at the White House in Washington, D.C. on January 7, 2013. Pending approval by the Senate, former U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel will replace Leon Panetta as Secretary of Defense, and chief counterterrorism adviser John Brennan will become the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency following the resignation of retired Army General David Petraeus. (Mark Wilson/Getty Images)



President Barack Obama (left) announced his nomination of White House Chief of Staff Jacob Lew (center) to succeed Timothy Geithner (right) as Treasury Secretary from the East Room of the White House on Thursday, January 10, 2013.



United States Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan (right) swears in United States Secretary of State John Forbes Kerry (left) on February 1, 2013 in the Foreign Relations Committee Room in the Capitol. They were joined by his wife Teresa, daughter Vanessa, brother Cameron, and his Senate staff. John Forbes Kerry is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (a private organization in New York City) and a member of Skull & Bones (a secret society at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.A.). (Photo: [U.S. Department of State](#))



Turkish security officers inspect the site after an explosion occurred at the entrance of the American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey on Friday, February 1, 2013. At least one person was killed in an explosion in front of the American Embassy, the state-run Anatolian news agency and other media reported. (REUTERS/Ihlas News Agency/IHA)



Klaus Schwab (left), Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, greets Mario Monti (right), Prime Minister of Italy, during Welcoming Remarks at the Annual Meeting 2013 of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on January 23, 2013. Klaus Schwab and Mario Monti have attended the Bilderberg Meetings in the past. (Copyright World Economic Forum/Photo by Remy Steinegger) <http://www.flickr.com/photos/worldeconomicforum/8407993367/in/photostream>



United States Secretary of State John Kerry (left) meets with Prime Minister of Italy Mario Monti in Rome, Italy on February 28, 2013. ([State Department photo/Public Domain](#))



U.S. Ambassador to Italy David Thorne and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speak with Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta at Palazzo Chigi in Rome, Italy, on May 9, 2013. David Thorne and John Kerry are members of Skull & Bones, a secret society at Yale University. John Kerry and Enrico Letta attended the 2012 Bilderberg Meetings in Chantilly, Virginia, U.S.A. in June 2012.

[State Department photo/ Public Domain] <http://www.flickr.com/photos/statephotos/8723339952/in/photostream>



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry discusses Middle East peace with Quartet Representative Tony Blair at the Villa Taverna, the U.S. ambassador's residence in Rome, Italy, on May 9, 2013. [State Department photo/ Public Domain]
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/statephotos/8724163994/in/photostream>



U.S. President Barack Obama (left) pays “lip service” to Chicago Jewish billionaire businesswoman Penny Pritzker, the designated U.S. Secretary of Commerce, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, May 2, 2013. Penny Pritzker is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private foreign affairs organization in New York City. (Photo: Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg)



United States President Barack Obama (left) greets President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto at the Palacio Nacional (National Palace) in Mexico City, Mexico on May 2, 2013. (Photo: <http://en.mercopress.com/2013/05/03/obama-supports-new-mexican-drugs-security-policy-to-cut-down-on-killings-and-violence>)



Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands (formerly Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands) rides in the back of a limousine in Watford, England on Thursday, June 6, 2013 enroute to the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held at The Grove.
(Photo: <http://alles-schallundrauch.blogspot.com/2013/06/bilderberg-in-watford-tag4.html>)



President Barack Obama participates in a G8 Summit meeting on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in the Library at Lough Erne Resort in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, June 17, 2013. Participating in the meeting are, clockwise from President Obama: Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom; Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; President François Hollande of France; Prime Minister Enrico Letta of Italy; Taoiseach Enda Kenny of Ireland; José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission; and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council. **Barroso attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held at The Grove hotel in Watford, England from June 6-9, 2013.** ([Official White House Photo by Pete Souza](#))



U.S. President Barack Obama (left) shakes hands with President of Cuba Raul Castro during the official memorial service for former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela at FNB Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa on December 10, 2013. Over 60 heads of state have travelled to South Africa to attend a week of events commemorating the life of former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela passed away on the evening of December 5, 2013 at his home in Houghton at the age of 95. Mandela became South Africa's first native African president in 1994 after spending 27 years in jail for his activism against apartheid in a racially-divided South Africa. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)



Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (left) embraces Henry Kissinger as he presented her with the Atlantic Council's Leadership award on Wednesday, May 1, 2013. (Jonathan Ernst/Reuters)



President Barack Obama (left) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel listen to remarks by Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany on June 19, 2013. ([Official White House Photo by Pete Souza](#))



Barack Obama (left), President of the United States, appears with Carl Bildt (right), Foreign Minister of Sweden, as the two men walk on the red carpet at Arlanda Airport in Stockholm, Sweden on September 4, 2013. Obama and Bildt were in Stockholm, Sweden to discuss the future of Syria and issues involving the Syrian Civil War. **Carl Bildt is a member of the Trilateral Commission and a member of the Bilderberg Group. Carl Bildt attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held at Watford (Hertfordshire), England (near London) from 6-9 June 2013.** (AP Photo)



United States President Barack Obama views the area near the Treasury during a walking tour of the ancient city of Petra in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on March 23, 2013. ([Official White House Photo by Pete Souza](#))



U.S. President Barack Obama (2nd R) meets Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III (3rd L) during a tour of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on March 22, 2013. ([REUTERS/Jason Reed](#))



President Barack Obama (2nd right) laughs with former Presidents Jimmy Carter (left), Bill Clinton (2nd left), and George W. Bush prior to the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, U.S.A. on April 25, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)



President Barack Obama (right) and former President Bill Clinton (center) speak with House Speaker John Boehner (left, R-Ohio) before a memorial service for former House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash. at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. on October 29, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama host a Passover Seder Dinner for family, staff and friends, in the Old Family Dining Room of the White House in Washington, D.C. on **March 25, 2013**. ([Official White House Photo by Pete Souza](#))



People wait in line to make a transaction at an ATM outside a branch of Bank of Cyprus during a bank run in Nicosia, Cyprus on March 21, 2013. The Cyprus government confiscated money from its citizens' bank accounts in an attempt to seek a bailout. The European Union agreed to €10 billion "bailout" for Cyprus on **March 25, 2013**. ([REUTERS/Yorgos Karahalis](#))



Benjamin Netanyahu (left), Prime Minister of Israel, and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (right) attend the Ceremonial funeral of former British Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on **April 17, 2013**. Dignitaries from around the world today join Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh as the United Kingdom pays tribute to former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher during a Ceremonial funeral with military honors at St. Paul's Cathedral. (Photo: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images Europe)



Communist China's incoming President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at a Communist Party meeting in Beijing (Peking) in February 2013.



Communist China's President Xi Jinping meets with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, a member of the Bilderberg Group and the Trilateral Commission, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Communist China on April 24, 2013. (Photo: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx/t1035804.shtml>)



President of Communist China Xi Jinping meets with former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson (left) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Communist China on April 24, 2013. Henry Paulson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private political organization located in New York City.

(Photo: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx/t1035804.shtml>)



President of Communist China Xi Jinping meets with former U.S. President William J. "Bill" Clinton (left) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Communist China on November 18, 2013. Bill Clinton is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a private political organization located in New York City.

(Photo: <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zmgxss/t1100579.htm>)



Abraham H. Foxman (left), National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, appears with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden at the Anti-Defamation League Centennial Gala held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington D.C. on April 30, 2013.
(Photo: <http://www.worldjewishdaily.com/adl-centennial.php>)



President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia (center) is presented with a World Statesman Award by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (left) and Appeal of Conscience Foundation President Rabbi Arthur Schneier (right) in New York City on May 30, 2013. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)



German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle (left), President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany Dieter Graumann (center), and President of the World Jewish Congress Ronald S. Lauder attend the 14th Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, Hungary on May 6, 2013. (AP Photo/MTI, Lajos Soos)



David Cameron (center), the Prime Minister of Great Britain, advocates war with Syria during a night session in the Parliament in London on August 29, 2013. The British Parliament voted against a proposed war with Syria that night. **David Cameron attended the 2013 Bilderberg Meetings held at The Grove hotel in Watford, England, near London, from June 6-9, 2013.**



A Shinto priest leads Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe (2nd left) as he visits the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, Japan on **December 26, 2013**. Communist China protested Japan's claim to the uninhabited Senkaku Islands throughout 2013. (AFP Photo/Toru Yamanaka)



Caroline Kennedy, the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, presents her credentials to Emperor Akihito of Japan at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan on November 19, 2013 (three days before the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy). Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy, is a member of the **Council on Foreign Relations**, a private political organization in New York City. (Photo: AFP/Imperial Household Agency of Japan)



Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, attends a meeting at the Chatham House in London on April 19, 2013.
(Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/chathamhouse/8663275224/>)



Robert E. Rubin, the former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and former partner of Goldman Sachs bank in New York City, speaks at Chatham House in London on May 14, 2013. The title of the meeting was "Critical Economic Challenges and Whether Democracies Can Meet Them". (Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/chathamhouse/8738198855/>)



Hillary Clinton, former United States Secretary of State, answers questions from an audience at Chatham House in London, England on October 11, 2013. Chatham House is the headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. (Photo by Peter Macdiarmid/Getty Images)

Political Turmoil in Ukraine: Organized Crime?



Reuters

Left to right: Fuel Minister of Ukraine Stavitsky, President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte and CEO of Royal Dutch Shell Peter Voser shake hands after exchanging a signed agreement at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland on January 24, 2013. (Reuters)

Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte and CEO of Royal Dutch Shell Peter Voser attended the 2012 Bilderberg Meetings held in Chantilly, Virginia, U.S.A. from May 31, 2012 until June 3, 2012. Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Secretary of State (1973-1977), and Igor S. Ivanov, Foreign Minister of Russia (1998-2004), also attended the 2012 Bilderberg Meetings.



A protest is conducted by the Cabinet of Ministers in Kiev, Ukraine on November 27, 2013. Atop the vehicle are Ukrainian opposition leaders Oleh Tyahnybok (left), Arseniy Yatsenyuk (center), and Vitali Klychko (right, holding a microphone).



Protesters and riot police clash in front of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine during a rally in Kiev on November 24, 2013. (RIA Novosti / Alexei Furman)



A protester attacks the statue of Soviet Union founder Vladimir Lenin with a sledgehammer in Kiev, Ukraine on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Ukrainians were protesting President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich's proposals for closer ties with the Russian government and his decision to delay signing the European Union Association Agreement. The government of Ukraine decided to postpone the signing of the European Union Association Agreement on November 21, 2013. Protests began on November 21, 2013. The signing of the European Union Association Agreement would have allowed Ukraine to become integrated with European Union economically and reduce trade barriers between Ukraine and European Union. **Russia maintains a navy base at Sevastopol, Ukraine, a port city located in the Crimea on the Black Sea.** (Photo: Sergei Chuzavkov/AP)



European Union President Herman Van Rompuy (center) and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (right) welcome President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych (left) ahead of an European Union-Ukraine Summit in Brussels, Belgium on February 25, 2013.



Assistant U.S. Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland (2nd right, wearing a blue jacket) offered food to pro-European Union activists as she and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt (right) walked through Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, on Wednesday, December 11, 2013. Nuland also offered food to some of the police nearby. Victoria Nuland is the wife of American Jewish journalist Robert Kagan. Robert Kagan is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. (Photo: Andrew Kravchenko/AP)



United States Senator John McCain (center) appears with Ukrainian opposition leader Oleh Tyahnybok (right) in Kiev, Ukraine on December 14, 2013.



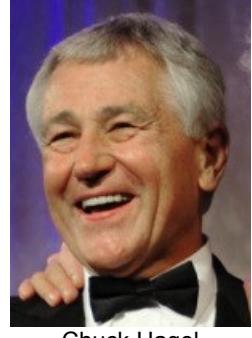
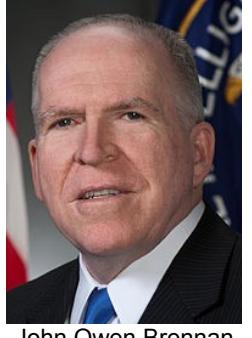
AFP

United States Senator John McCain (right) meets with Ukrainian opposition leaders Arseniy Yatsenyuk (left, wearing a blue shirt) and Oleh Tyahnybok (center) in Kiev, Ukraine on December 14, 2013. John McCain is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



United States Senator John McCain (right) appears with Ukrainian opposition leaders Arseniy Yatsenyuk (left) and Oleh Tyahnybok (2nd left) for dinner in Kiev, Ukraine on December 14, 2013.

The Changing of the Guards in 2013

				
King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands (April 30, 2013-present)	King Philippe of Belgium (July 21, 2013-present)	Pope Francis (March 13, 2013-present)	Mark J. Carney Governor of the Bank of England (July 1, 2013-present)	Karnit Flug Governor of the Bank of Israel (Nov. 13, 2013-present)
				
John Forbes Kerry B.A. Yale 1966 U.S. Secretary of State (Feb. 1, 2013-present)	Chuck Hagel U.S. Secretary of Defense (Feb. 27, 2013-present)	Jacob J. Lew U.S. Secretary of the Treasury (Feb. 28, 2013-present)	Penny Pritzker U.S. Secretary of Commerce (June 26, 2013-present)	Susan E. Rice U.S. National Security Advisor (July 1, 2013-present)
				
Mary Jo White Chairman of U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (April 10, 2013-present)	Samantha Power B.A. Yale 1992 U.S. Representative to the United Nations (August 2, 2013-present)	John Owen Brennan Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (March 8, 2013-present)	Peter Salovey President of Yale University (July 1, 2013-present)	Christopher L. Eisgruber President of Princeton University (July 1, 2013-present)
				
Park Geun-hye President of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) (Feb. 25, 2013-present)	Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China (March 14, 2013-present)	Hassan Rouhani President of Iran (August 3, 2013-present)	Enrico Letta Prime Minister of Italy (April 28, 2013-February 22, 2014)	Erna Solberg Prime Minister of Norway (October 16, 2013-present)

2013 Obituaries



Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap
(born August 25, 1911;
died October 4, 2013)
Defense Minister of
Vietnam (1946-1980)



Gen. Hugo Chavez
(born July 28, 1954;
died March 5, 2013)
President of Venezuela
(1999-2013)



Margaret Thatcher
(born October 13, 1925;
died April 8, 2013)
Prime Minister of Great
Britain (1979-1990)



Nelson Mandela
(born July 18, 1918;
died December 5, 2013)
President of South Africa
(1994-1999)



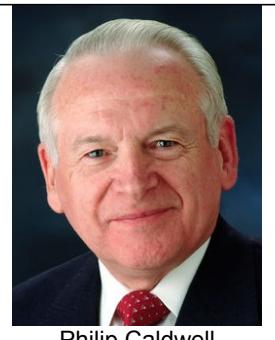
Robert Leigh-Pemberton
(born January 5, 1927;
died November 24, 2013)
Governor of the Bank of
England (1983-1993)



Alden Winship (A.W.)
Clausen
(born February 17, 1923;
died January 22, 2013)
President of The World
Bank (1981-1986)



Renato Ruggiero
(born April 9, 1930;
died August 4, 2013)
Director-General of the
World Trade Organization
(1995-1999)



Philip Caldwell
(born Jan. 27, 1920;
died July 10, 2013)
Chairman and CEO of
Ford Motor Co.
(1980-1985)



Eiji Toyoda
(born Sept. 12, 1913;
died Sept. 17, 2013)
Chairman (1982-1992)
and President (1967-
1982) of Toyota Motor
Corporation



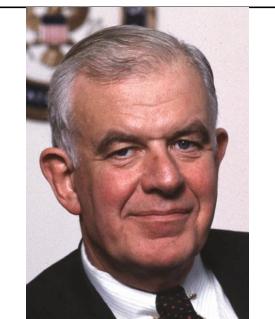
Paul Desmarais Sr.
(born January 4, 1927;
died October 8, 2013)
Former Chairman and
CEO of Power
Corporation of Canada



Steven Muller
(born Nov. 22, 1927;
died January 19, 2013)
President of Johns
Hopkins University
(1972-1990)



Gen. David C. Jones
(born July 9, 1921;
died August 10, 2013)
Chairman of the Joint
Chiefs of Staff
(1978-1982); U.S. Air
Force General



Thomas S. Foley
(born March 6, 1929;
died October 18, 2013)
Speaker of the House
(1989-1995); U.S.
Ambassador to Japan
(1997-2001)



Ed Koch
(born December 12, 1924;
died February 1, 2013)
Mayor of New York City
(1978-1989)



Herbert M. Allison Jr.
(born August 2, 1943;
died July 14, 2013)
Chairman and CEO of
TIAA-CREF (2002-2008)



Giulio Andreotti
(born January 14, 1919;
died May 6, 2013)
Prime Minister of Italy
(1972-1973, 1976-1979,
1989-1992)



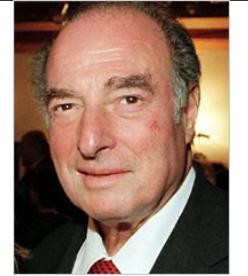
Pierre Mauroy
(born July 5, 1928;
died June 7, 2013)
Prime Minister of France
(1981-1984)



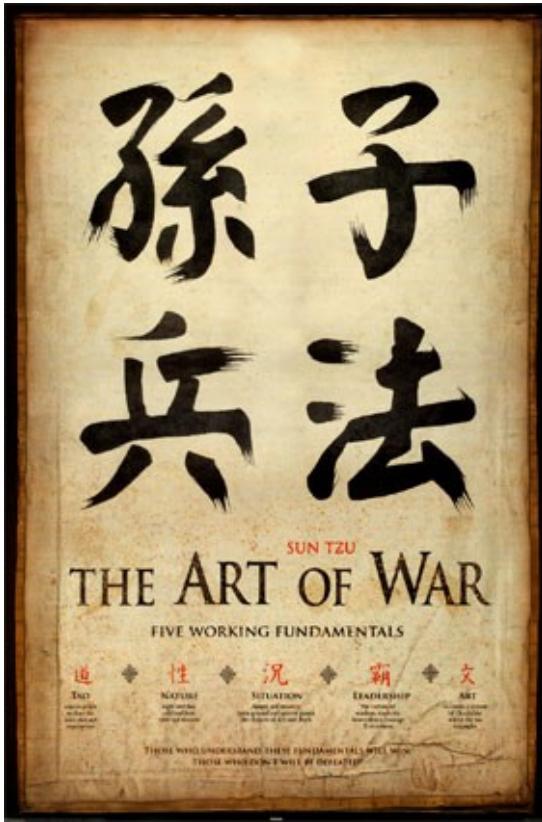
Wilfried Martens
(born April 19, 1936;
died October 10, 2013)
Prime Minister of Belgium
(1979-1981, 1981-1992)



Edgar M. Bronfman Sr.
(born June 20, 1929;
died December 21, 2013)
President of World Jewish
Congress (1981-2007)



Marc Rich
(born December 18, 1934;
died June 26, 2013)
Belgian-born American
Jewish real estate mogul
and fugitive



Sun Tzu

"War is a matter of vital importance to the state; a matter of life or death, the road either to survival or to ruin... **All warfare is based on deception.** Therefore, when capable of attacking, feign incapacity; when active in moving troops, feign inactivity. When near the enemy, make it seem that you are far away; when far away, make it seem that you are near. Hold out baits to lure the enemy. Strike the enemy when he is in disorder. Prepare against the enemy when he is secure at all points. Avoid the enemy for the time being when he is stronger. If your opponent is of choleric temper, try to irritate him. If he is arrogant, try to encourage his egotism. If the enemy troops are well prepared after reorganization, try to wear them down. If they are united, try to sow dissension among them. Attack the enemy where he is unprepared, and appear where you are not expected. These are the keys to victory for a strategist. It is not possible to formulate them in detail beforehand... **To subdue the enemy without fighting is the supreme art of excellence.... Know your enemy and know yourself;** in a hundred battles, you will never be defeated. When you are ignorant of the enemy but know yourself, your chances of winning or losing are equal. If ignorant both of your enemy and of yourself, you are sure to be defeated in every battle." – Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

Year of the Snake (Chinese Calendar):

1101, 1113, 1125, 1137, 1149, 1161, 1173, 1185, 1197
1209, 1221, 1233, 1245, 1257, 1269, 1281, 1293
1305, 1317, 1329, 1341, 1353, 1365, 1377, 1389
1401, 1413, 1425, 1437, 1449, 1461, 1473, 1485, 1497
1509, 1521, 1533, 1545, 1557, 1569, 1581, 1593
1605, 1617, 1629, 1641, 1653, 1665, 1677, 1689
1701, 1713, 1725, 1737, 1749, 1761, 1773, 1785, 1797
1809, 1821, 1833, 1845, 1857, 1869, 1881, 1893
1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989
2001, 2013, 2025, 2037, 2049, 2061, 2073, 2085, 2097